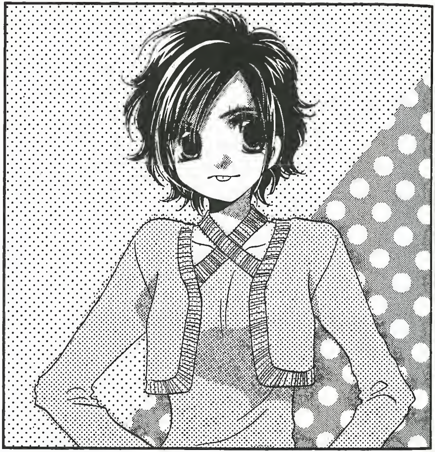
Gatcha Gacha™

TOKYOPOP®

6

Yutaka Tachibana

Gatcha Gacha™



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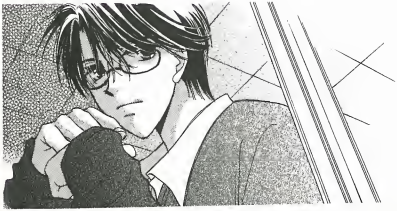
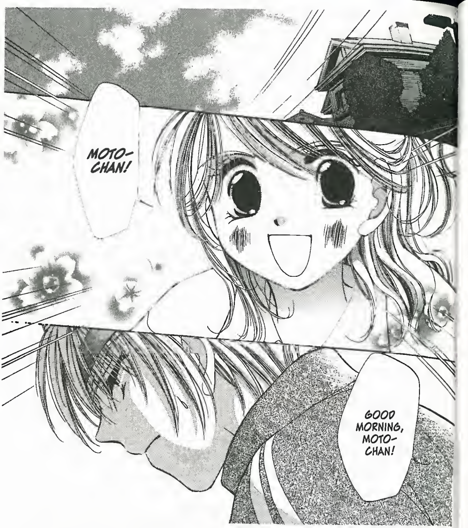
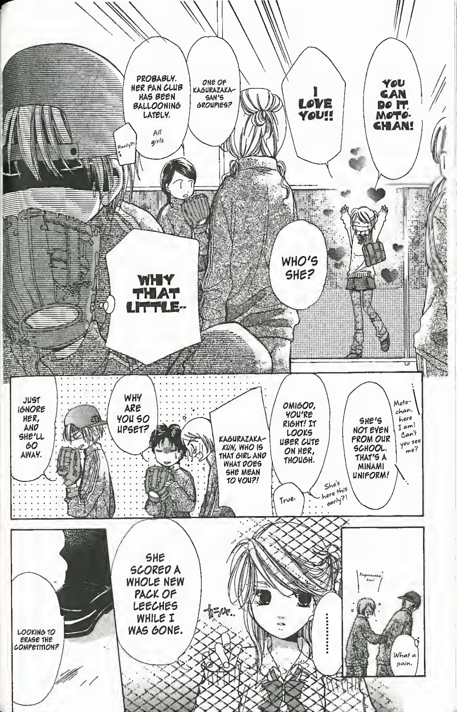


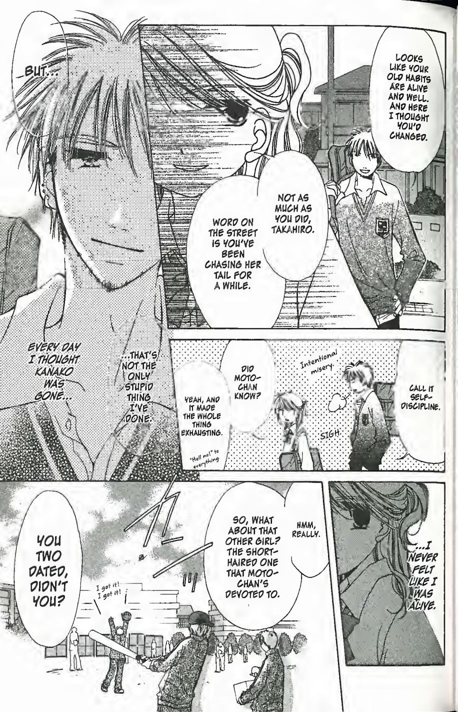

MOTO-CHAN!
GOOD MORNING, MOTO-CHAN!

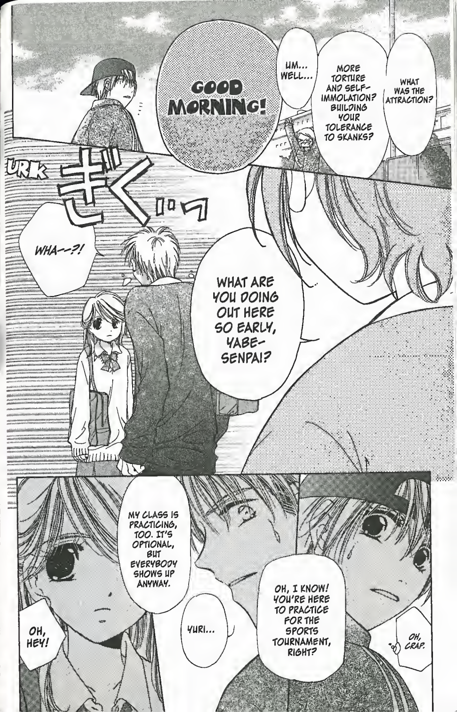
Recommended DVD

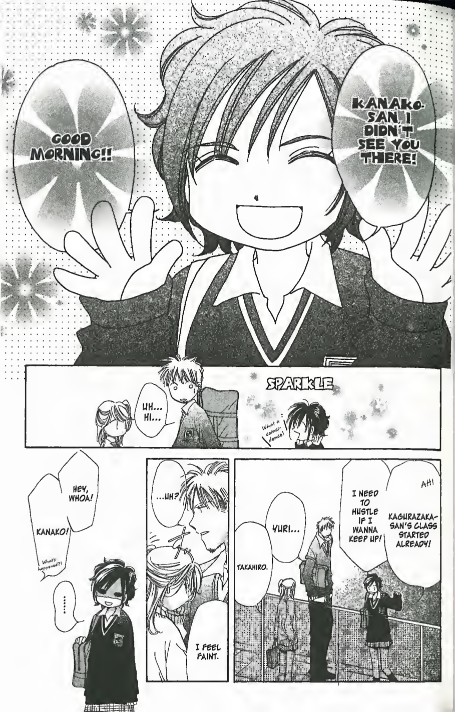
The Incredibles

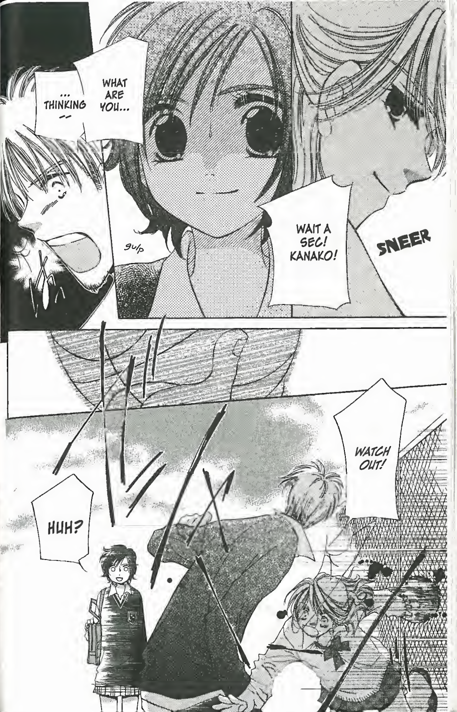
It was a whole lot better than I expected, actually. Tomokazu Miura dubbed the voice of Mr. Incredible, and he was especially good. I was kinda worried when I first picked it up because having star power in the dubbing credits for western movies can only carry a movie so far. If the stars don't do a really good job, then the whole thing is going to suffer as a result. Fortunately, my worries were unfounded, as Miura did a spectacular job. Oh, the movie's story was pretty good, too.

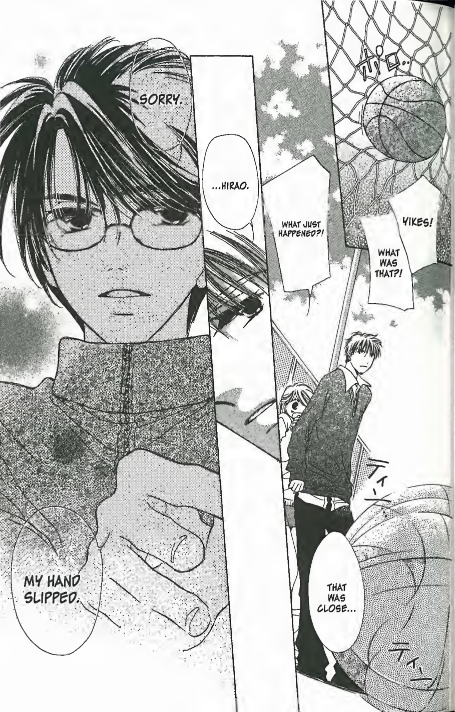

YOU CAN DO IT, MOTO-CHAN!
I LOVE YOU!!
ONE OF KAGURAZAKA-SAN'S GROUPIES?
PROBABLY. HER FAN CLUB HAS BEEN BALLOONING LATELY.
All girls
Really?!
WHO'S SHE?
WHY THAT LITTLE--
Moto-chan, here I am! Can't you see me?
SHE'S NOT EVEN FROM OUR SCHOOL. THAT'S A MINAMI UNIFORM!
OMIGOD, YOU'RE RIGHT! IT LOOKS UBER CUTE ON HER, THOUGH.
She's here this early?!
True.
KAGURAZAKA-KUN, WHO IS THAT GIRL AND WHAT DOES SHE MEAN TO YOU?!
WHY ARE YOU SO UPSET?
JUST IGNORE HER, AND SHE'LL GO AWAY.
Kagurazaka-kun!
What a pain.
......
SHE SCORED A WHOLE NEW PACK OF LEECHES WHILE I WAS GONE.
LOOKING TO ERASE THE COMPETITION?

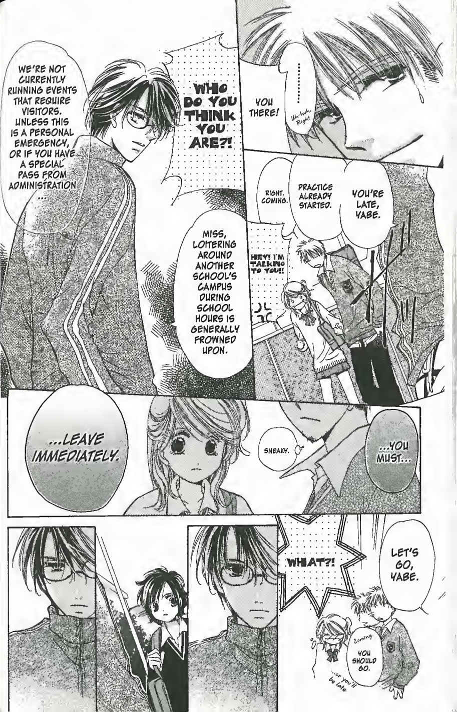

LOOKS LIKE YOUR OLD HABITS ARE ALIVE AND WELL. AND HERE I THOUGHT YOU'D CHANGED.
NOT AS MUCH AS YOU DID, TAKAHIRO.
WORD ON THE STREET IS YOU'VE BEEN CHASING HER TAIL FOR A WHILE.
BUT...
CALL IT SELF-DISCIPLINE.
Intentional misery.
SIGH
DID MOTO-CHAN KNOW?
YEAH, AND IT MADE THE WHOLE THING EXHAUSTING.
"Hell no!" to everything
...THAT'S NOT THE ONLY STUPID THING I'VE DONE.
EVERY DAY I THOUGHT KANAKO WAS GONE...
...I NEVER FELT LIKE I WAS ALIVE.
HMM, REALLY.
SO, WHAT ABOUT THAT OTHER GIRL? THE SHORT-HAIRED ONE THAT MOTO-CHAN'S DEVOTED TO.
YOU TWO DATED, DIDN'T YOU?
I got it! I got it!

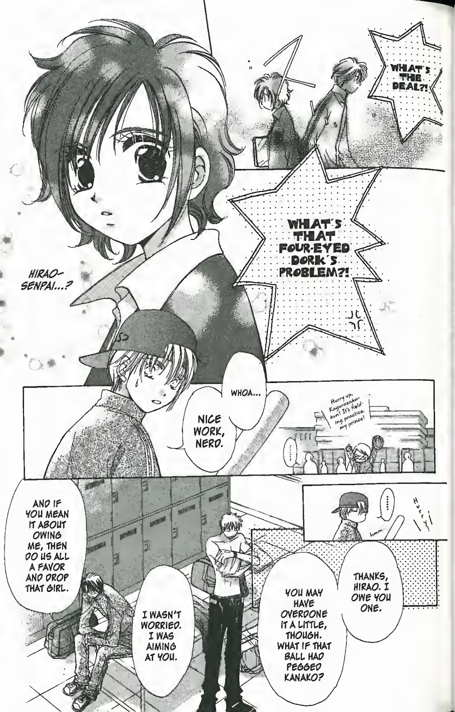

WHAT WAS THE ATTRACTION?
MORE TORTURE AND SELF-IMMOLATION? BUILDING YOUR TOLERANCE TO SKANKS?
UM... WELL...
GOOD MORNING!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE SO EARLY, YABE-SENPAI?
URK
ぎくッ
WHA--?!
OH, CRAP.
OH, I KNOW! YOU'RE HERE TO PRACTICE FOR THE SPORTS TOURNAMENT, RIGHT?
YURI...
MY CLASS IS PRACTICING, TOO. IT'S OPTIONAL, BUT EVERYBODY SHOWS UP ANYWAY.
OH, HEY!

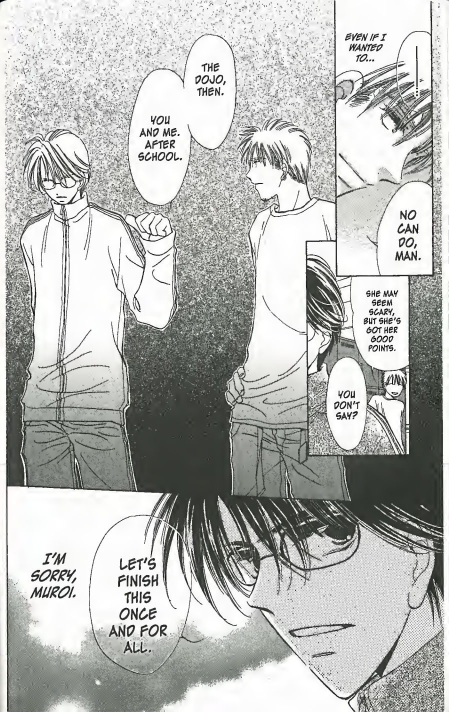

KANAKO-SAN, I DIDN'T SEE YOU THERE!
GOOD MORNING!!
SPARKLE
What a coincidence!
UH... HI...
AH!
KAGURAZAKA-SAN'S CLASS STARTED ALREADY!
I NEED TO HUSTLE IF I WANNA KEEP UP!
YURI...
TAKAHIRO.
...UH?
I FEEL FAINT.
HEY, WHOA!
KANAKO!
What's happened?!
......

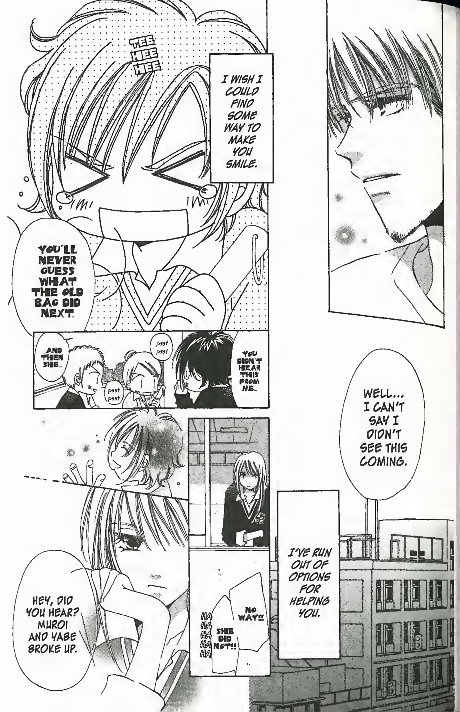

SNEER
WAIT A SEC! KANAKO!
WHAT ARE YOU...
...THINKING --
gulp
WATCH OUT!
HUH?

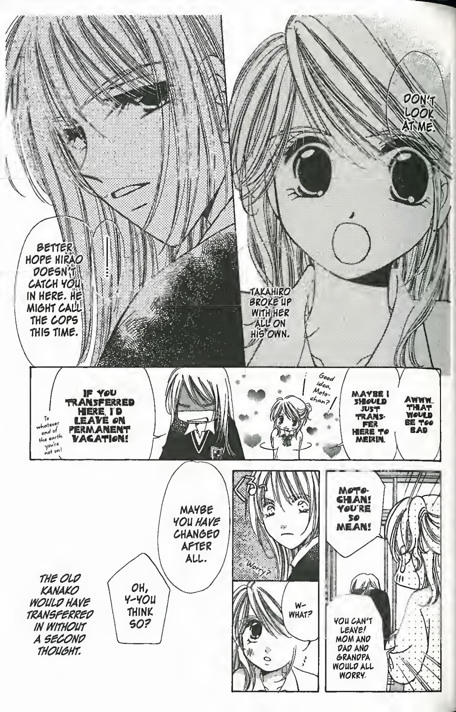

YIKES!
WHAT WAS THAT?!
WHAT JUST HAPPENED?!
...HIRAO.
SORRY.
MY HAND SLIPPED.
THAT WAS CLOSE...

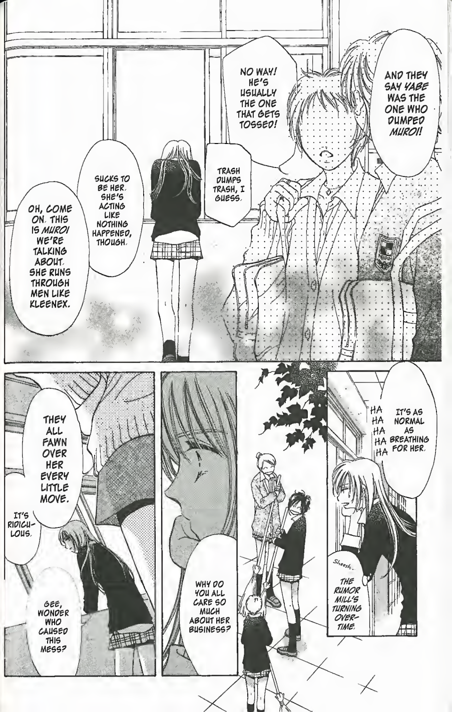

......
Uh-huh. Right.
YOU THERE!
YOU'RE LATE, YABE.
PRACTICE ALREADY STARTED.
RIGHT. COMING.
HEY! I'M TALKING TO YOU!!
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?!
WE'RE NOT CURRENTLY RUNNING EVENTS THAT REQUIRE VISITORS. UNLESS THIS IS A PERSONAL EMERGENCY, OR IF YOU HAVE A SPECIAL PASS FROM ADMINISTRATION...
MISS, LOITERING AROUND ANOTHER SCHOOL'S CAMPUS DURING SCHOOL HOURS IS GENERALLY FROWNED UPON.
...YOU MUST...
SNEAKY.
...LEAVE IMMEDIATELY.
LET'S GO, YABE.
WHAT?!
Coming
YOU SHOULD GO.
...or you'll be late

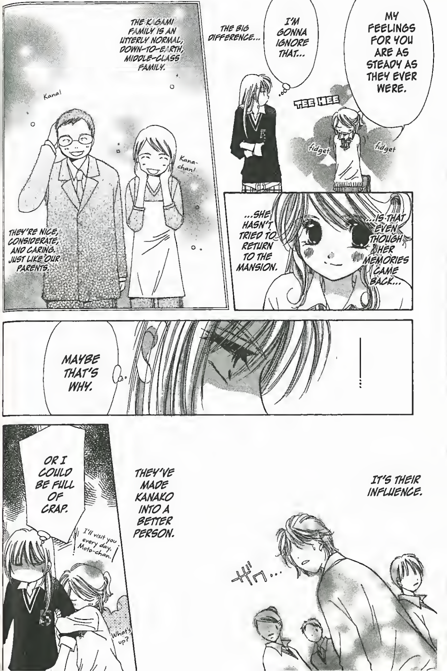

WHAT'S THE DEAL?!
WHAT'S THAT FOUR-EYED DORK'S PROBLEM?!
HIRAO-SENPAI...?
Hurry up, Kagurazaka-kun! It's fielding practice, my prince!
......
WHOA...
NICE WORK, NERD.
Hurry!
......
hmm
THANKS, HIRAO. I OWE YOU ONE.
YOU MAY HAVE OVERDONE IT A LITTLE, THOUGH. WHAT IF THAT BALL HAD PEGGED KANAKO?
I WASN'T WORRIED. I WAS AIMING AT YOU.
AND IF YOU MEAN IT ABOUT OWING ME, THEN DO US ALL A FAVOR AND DROP THAT GIRL.

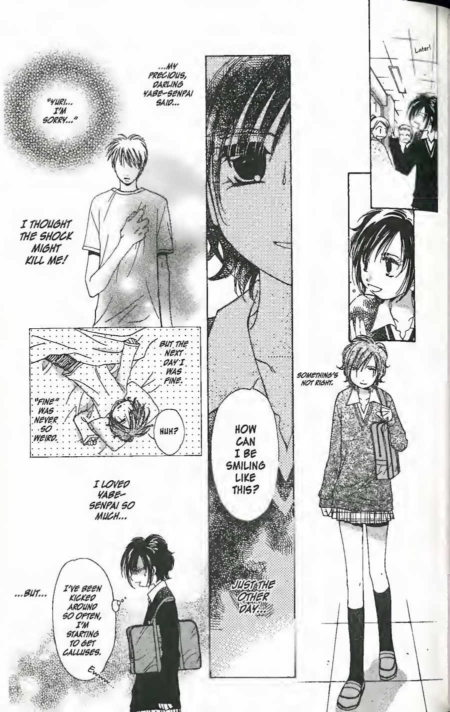

EVEN IF I WANTED TO...
!
NO CAN DO, MAN.
SHE MAY SEEM SCARY, BUT SHE'S GOT HER GOOD POINTS.
YOU DON'T SAY?
THE DOJO, THEN.
YOU AND ME. AFTER SCHOOL.
LET'S FINISH THIS ONCE AND FOR ALL.
I'M SORRY, MUROI.

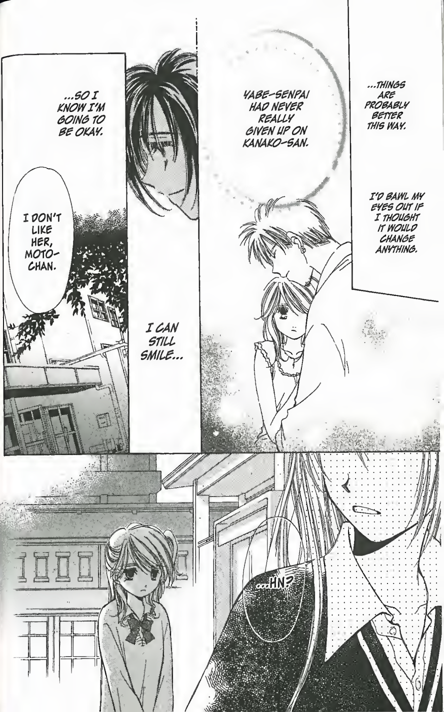

WELL... I CAN'T SAY I DIDN'T SEE THIS COMING.
I'VE RUN OUT OF OPTIONS FOR HELPING YOU.
I WISH I COULD FIND SOME WAY TO MAKE YOU SMILE.
TEE HEE HEE
YOU'LL NEVER GUESS WHAT THE OLD BAG DID NEXT.
YOU DIDN'T HEAR THIS FROM ME..
psst psst
psst psst
..AND THEN SHE..
NO WAY!!
SHE DID NOT!!
HA HA HA HA HA
HEY, DID YOU HEAR? MUROI AND YABE BROKE UP.


DON'T LOOK AT ME.
TAKAHIRO BROKE UP WITH HER ALL ON HIS OWN.
...!
BETTER HOPE HIRAO DOESN'T CATCH YOU IN HERE. HE MIGHT CALL THE COPS THIS TIME.
AWWW... THAT WOULD BE TOO BAD
MAYBE I SHOULD JUST TRANSFER HERE TO MEIRIN.
Good idea, Moto-chan?
IF YOU TRANSFERRED HERE, I'D LEAVE ON PERMANENT VACATION!
To whatever end of the earth you're not on!
MOTO-CHAN! YOU'RE SO MEAN!
YOU CAN'T LEAVE! MOM AND DAD AND GRANDPA WOULD ALL WORRY.
Worry?
W-WHAT?
MAYBE YOU HAVE CHANGED AFTER ALL.
OH, Y-YOU THINK SO?
THE OLD KANAKO WOULD HAVE TRANSFERRED IN WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT.


AND THEY SAY YABE WAS THE ONE WHO DUMPED MUROI!
NO WAY! HE'S USUALLY THE ONE THAT GETS TOSSED!
TRASH DUMPS TRASH, I GUESS.
SUCKS TO BE HER. SHE'S ACTING LIKE NOTHING HAPPENED, THOUGH.
OH, COME ON. THIS IS MUROI WE'RE TALKING ABOUT. SHE RUNS THROUGH MEN LIKE KLEENEX.
HA HA HA HA HA
IT'S AS NORMAL AS BREATHING FOR HER.
Sheesh...
THE RUMOR MILL'S TURNING OVERTIME.
WHY DO YOU ALL CARE SO MUCH ABOUT HER BUSINESS?
THEY ALL FAWN OVER HER EVERY LITTLE MOVE.
IT'S RIDICULOUS.
GEE, WONDER WHO CAUSED THIS MESS?


MY FEELINGS FOR YOU ARE AS STEADY AS THEY EVER WERE.
TEE HEE
fidget
fidget
I'M GONNA IGNORE THAT...
THE BIG DIFFERENCE...
THE KAGAMI FAMILY IS AN UTTERLY NORMAL, DOWN-TO-EARTH, MIDDLE-CLASS FAMILY.
Kana!
Kana-chan!
THEY'RE NICE, CONSIDERATE, AND CARING. JUST LIKE OUR PARENTS.
...IS THAT EVEN THOUGH HER MEMORIES CAME BACK...
...SHE HASN'T TRIED TO RETURN TO THE MANSION.
...
MAYBE THAT'S WHY.
IT'S THEIR INFLUENCE.
ザワ...
THEY'VE MADE KANAKO INTO A BETTER PERSON.
What's up?
I'll visit you every day, Moto-chan.
OR I COULD BE FULL OF CRAP.


Later!
SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT.
HOW CAN I BE SMILING LIKE THIS?
JUST THE OTHER DAY...
...MY PRECIOUS, DARLING YABE-SENPAI SAID...
"YURI... I'M SORRY..."
I THOUGHT THE SHOCK MIGHT KILL ME!
BUT THE NEXT DAY I WAS FINE.
HUH?
"FINE" WAS NEVER SO WEIRD.
I LOVED YABE-SENPAI SO MUCH...
...BUT...
I'VE BEEN KICKED AROUND SO OFTEN, I'M STARTING TO GET CALLUSES.
Ewww...

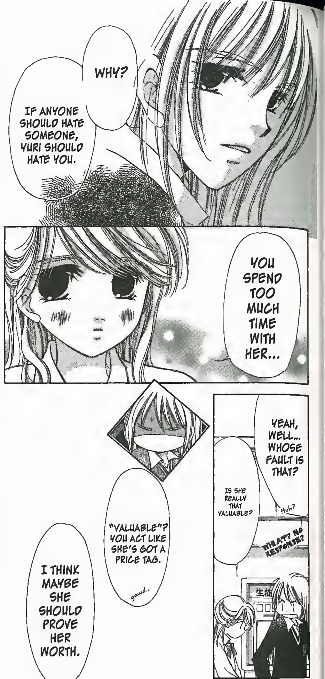

...THINGS ARE PROBABLY BETTER THIS WAY.
YABE-SENPAI HAD NEVER REALLY GIVEN UP ON KANAKO-SAN.
I'D BAWL MY EYES OUT IF I THOUGHT IT WOULD CHANGE ANYTHING.
...SO I KNOW I'M GOING TO BE OKAY.
I CAN STILL SMILE...
I DON'T LIKE HER, MOTO-CHAN.
...HN?

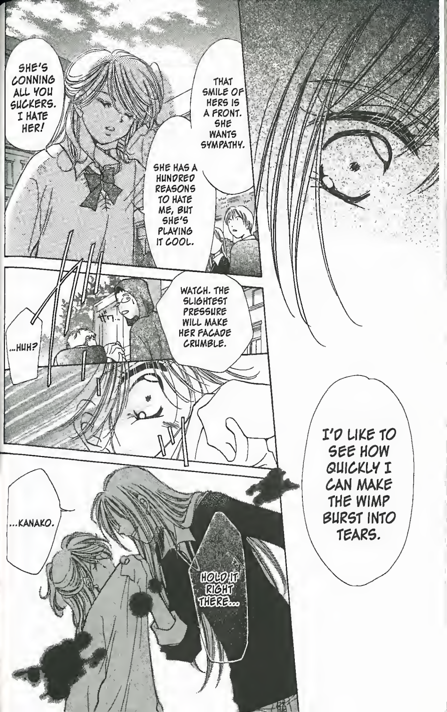
Hello, everyone. Nice to meet you, all of my new readers. Good to see you, my long-time fans. Yutaka Tachibana here. Thank you very much for purchasing my latest manga collection.

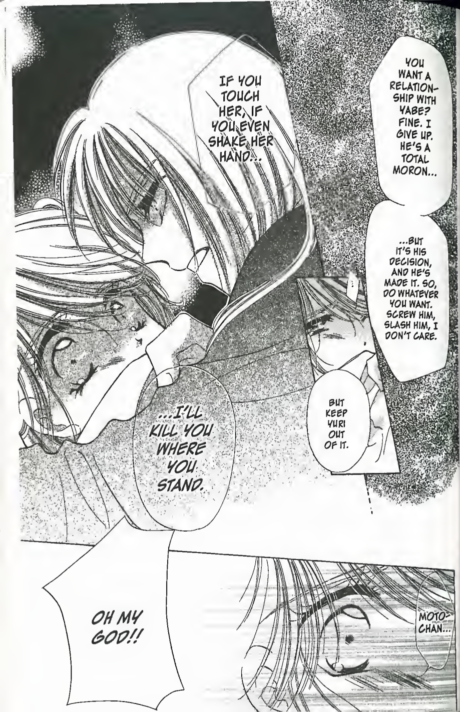
Well, Gatcha Gacha is supposed to be a "love comedy," but sometimes it becomes a bloodthirsty and dark drama. Even so, it's managed to reach volume 6. Isn't it a peaceful and heart-warming story? No? Oh, well, I guess not. Still, I have lots of fun drawing it. There aren't that many violent scenes in this installment, though, and I admit, that's kind of sad (to me, anyway). For the next volume, I want to draw scenes of heart-warming violence that everyone can love.

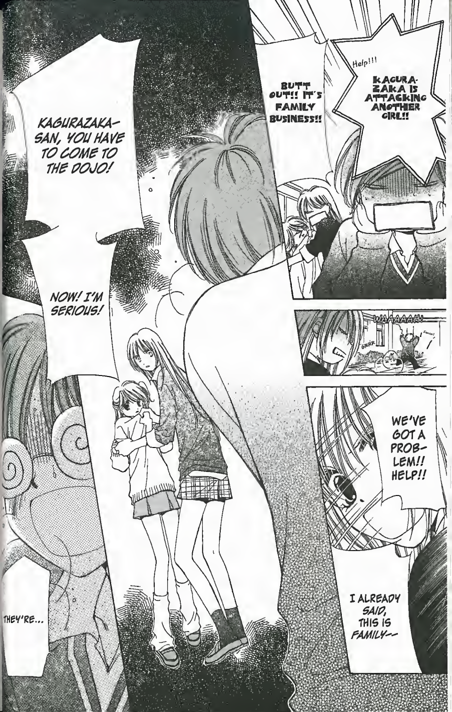
(No, no signs of remorse here. Nuh-uh.)

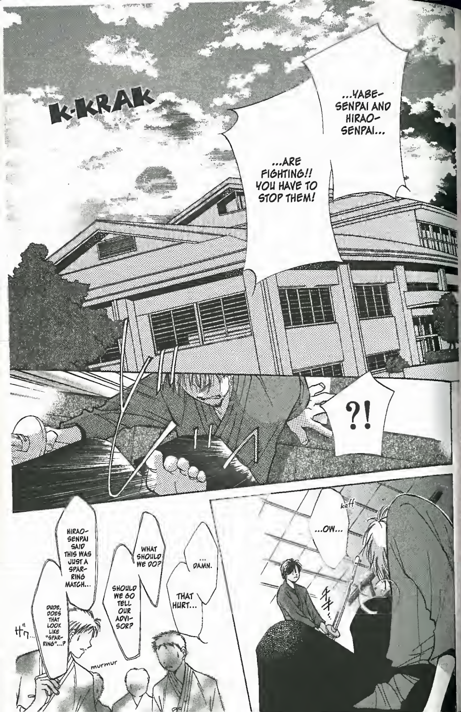
↗ I used black tones I had no other use for.

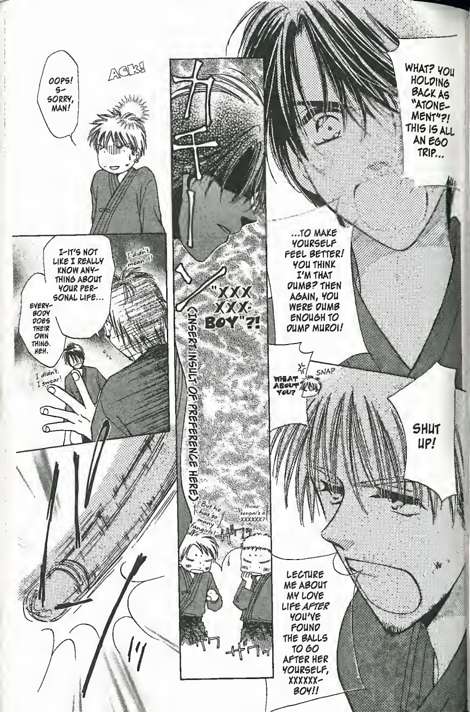

WHY?
IF ANYONE SHOULD HATE SOMEONE, YURI SHOULD HATE YOU.
YOU SPEND TOO MUCH TIME WITH HER...
YEAH, WELL... WHOSE FAULT IS THAT?
Huh?
IS SHE REALLY THAT VALUABLE?
WHAT? NO RESPONSE?
"VALUABLE"? YOU ACT LIKE SHE'S GOT A PRICE TAG.
gawd..
生徒
I THINK MAYBE SHE SHOULD PROVE HER WORTH.

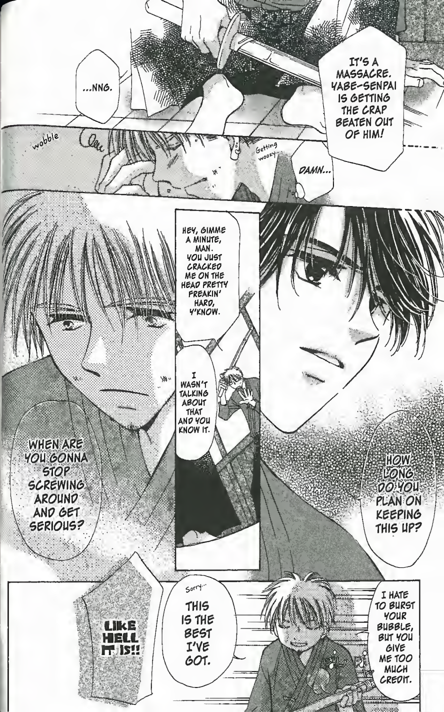

THAT SMILE OF HERS IS A FRONT. SHE WANTS SYMPATHY.
SHE HAS A HUNDRED REASONS TO HATE ME, BUT SHE'S PLAYING IT COOL.
Hm?
SHE'S CONNING ALL YOU SUCKERS. I HATE HER!
WATCH. THE SLIGHTEST PRESSURE WILL MAKE HER FACADE CRUMBLE.
...HUH?
I'D LIKE TO SEE HOW QUICKLY I CAN MAKE THE WIMP BURST INTO TEARS.
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE...
...KANAKO.

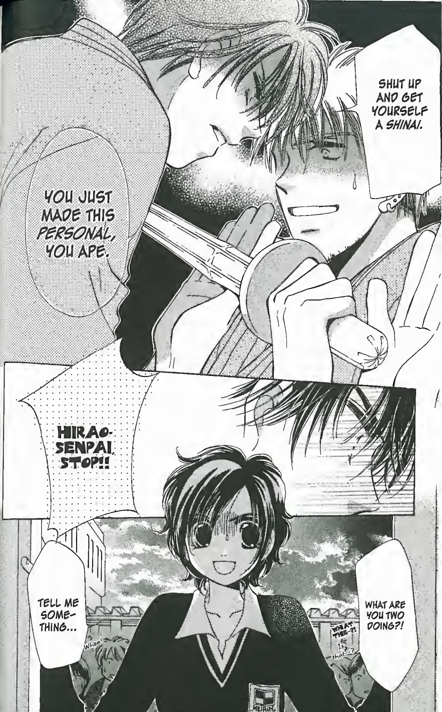

YOU WANT A RELATIONSHIP WITH YABE? FINE. I GIVE UP. HE'S A TOTAL MORON...
...BUT IT'S HIS DECISION, AND HE'S MADE IT. SO, DO WHATEVER YOU WANT. SCREW HIM, SLASH HIM, I DON'T CARE.
BUT KEEP YURI OUT OF IT.
IF YOU TOUCH HER, IF YOU EVEN SHAKE HER HAND...
...I'LL KILL YOU WHERE YOU STAND.
MOTO-CHAN...
OH MY GOD!!

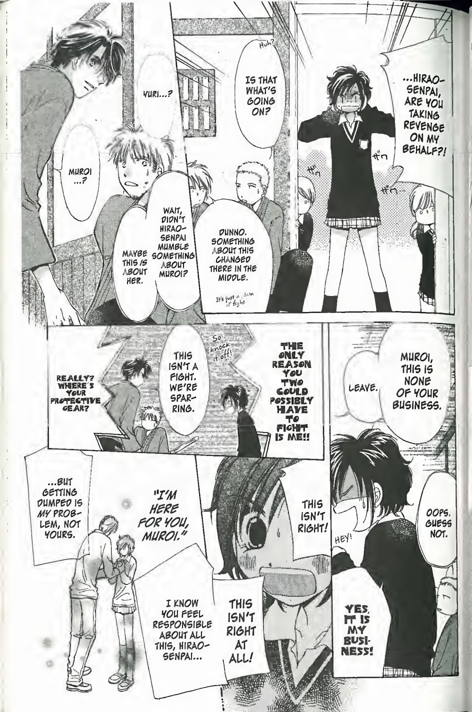

Help!!!
KAGURAZAKA IS ATTACKING ANOTHER GIRL!!
BUTT OUT!! IT'S FAMILY BUSINESS!!
WAAAAAH!
GRRR
Sensei!
WE'VE GOT A PROBLEM!! HELP!!
I ALREADY SAID, THIS IS FAMILY--
KAGURAZAKA-SAN, YOU HAVE TO COME TO THE DOJO!
NOW! I'M SERIOUS!
THEY'RE...

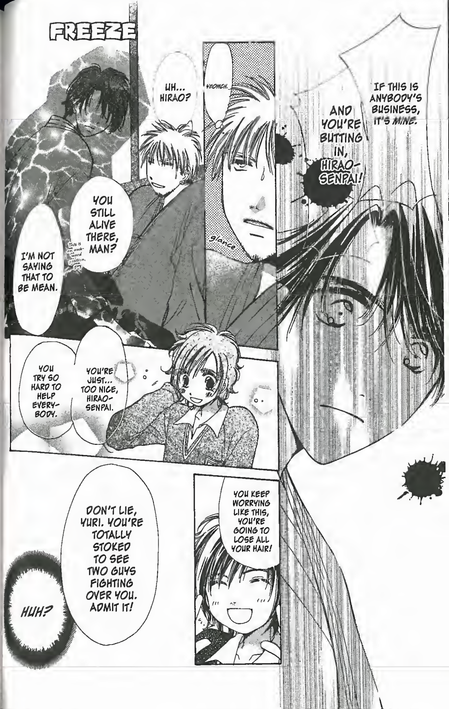

...YABE-SENPAI AND HIRAO-SENPAI...
...ARE FIGHTING!! YOU HAVE TO STOP THEM!
K-KRAK
?!
...OW...
keff
チャ…
...DAMN.
THAT HURT...
WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
SHOULD WE GO TELL OUR ADVISOR?
HIRAO-SENPAI SAID THIS WAS JUST A SPARRING MATCH...
DUDE, DOES THAT LOOK LIKE "SPARRING"...?
murmur
ザワ…

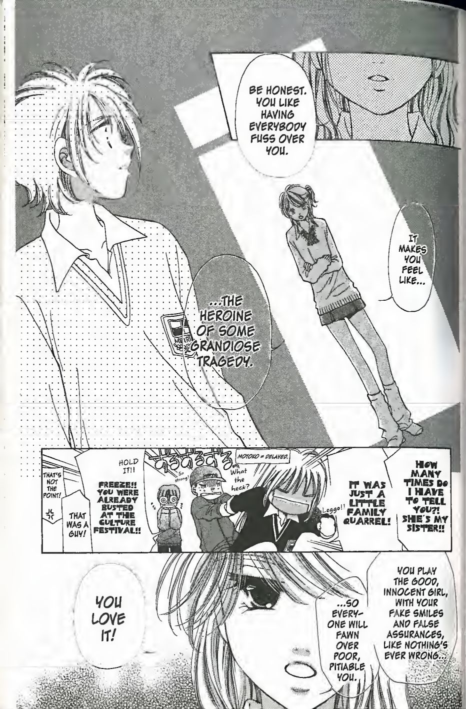

WHAT? YOU HOLDING BACK AS "ATONEMENT"?! THIS IS ALL AN EGO TRIP...
...TO MAKE YOURSELF FEEL BETTER! YOU THINK I'M THAT DUMB? THEN AGAIN, YOU WERE DUMB ENOUGH TO DUMP MUROI!
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
SNAP
SHUT UP!
LECTURE ME ABOUT MY LOVE LIFE AFTER YOU'VE FOUND THE BALLS TO GO AFTER HER YOURSELF, XXXXXX-BOY!!
"XXX XXX-BOY"?!
(INSERT INSULT OF PREFERENCE HERE)
Hirao-senpai's a XXXXXX?!
But he has so many fangirls!
OOPS! S-SORRY, MAN!
ACK!
I-IT'S NOT LIKE I REALLY KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT YOUR PERSONAL LIFE...
I didn't mean it!
EVERYBODY DOES THEIR OWN THING. HEH.
I didn't. I swear!

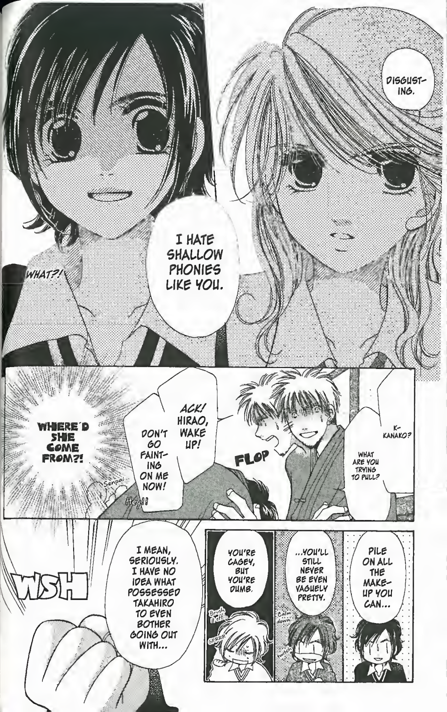

IT'S A MASSACRE. YABE-SENPAI IS GETTING THE CRAP BEATEN OUT OF HIM!
...NNG.
DAMN...
Getting woozy.
wobble
HEY, GIMME A MINUTE, MAN. YOU JUST CRACKED ME ON THE HEAD PRETTY FREAKIN' HARD, Y'KNOW.
HOW LONG DO YOU PLAN ON KEEPING THIS UP?
I WASN'T TALKING ABOUT THAT AND YOU KNOW IT.
WHEN ARE YOU GONNA STOP SCREWING AROUND AND GET SERIOUS?
I HATE TO BURST YOUR BUBBLE, BUT YOU GIVE ME TOO MUCH CREDIT.
Sorry...
THIS IS THE BEST I'VE GOT.
LIKE HELL IT IS!!

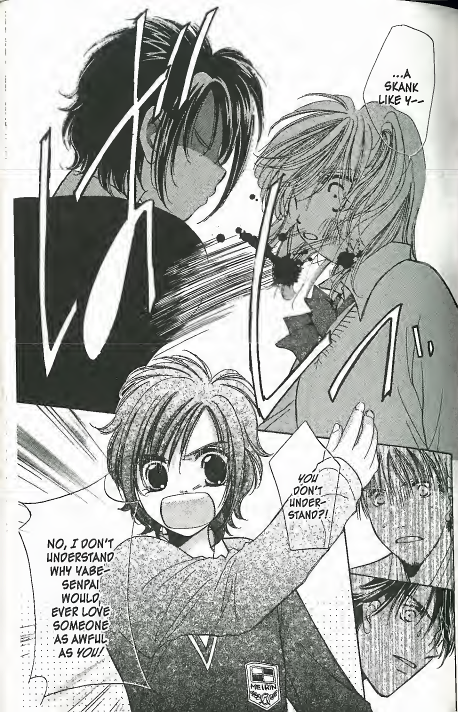

SHUT UP AND GET YOURSELF A *SHINAI.*
YOU JUST MADE THIS *PERSONAL,* YOU APE.
HIRAO-SENPAI, STOP!!
WHAT ARE YOU TWO DOING?!
WHAT THE-?! Is that-?
Whoa!
TELL ME SOMETHING...

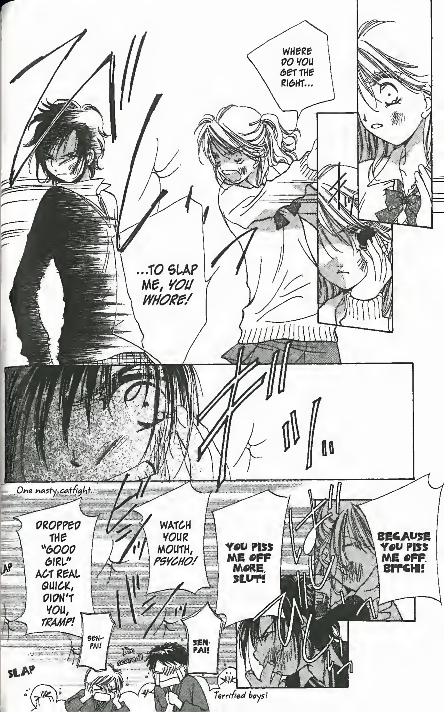

...HIRAO-SENPAI, ARE YOU TAKING REVENGE ON MY BEHALF?!
Huh?
IS THAT WHAT'S GOING ON?
YURI...?
MUROI ...?
DUNNO. SOMETHING ABOUT THIS CHANGED THERE IN THE MIDDLE.
It's just a plain ol' fight.
WAIT, DIDN'T HIRAO-SENPAI MUMBLE SOMETHING ABOUT MUROI?
MAYBE THIS IS ABOUT HER.
MUROI, THIS IS NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS.
LEAVE.
THE ONLY REASON YOU TWO COULD POSSIBLY HAVE TO FIGHT IS ME!!
THIS ISN'T A FIGHT. WE'RE SPARRING.
So knock it off!
REALLY? WHERE'S YOUR PROTECTIVE GEAR?
OOPS. GUESS NOT.
YES, IT IS MY BUSINESS!
HEY!
THIS ISN'T RIGHT!
THIS ISN'T RIGHT AT ALL!
I KNOW YOU FEEL RESPONSIBLE ABOUT ALL THIS, HIRAO-SENPAI...
"I'M HERE FOR YOU, MUROI."
...BUT GETTING DUMPED IS *MY* PROBLEM, NOT YOURS.

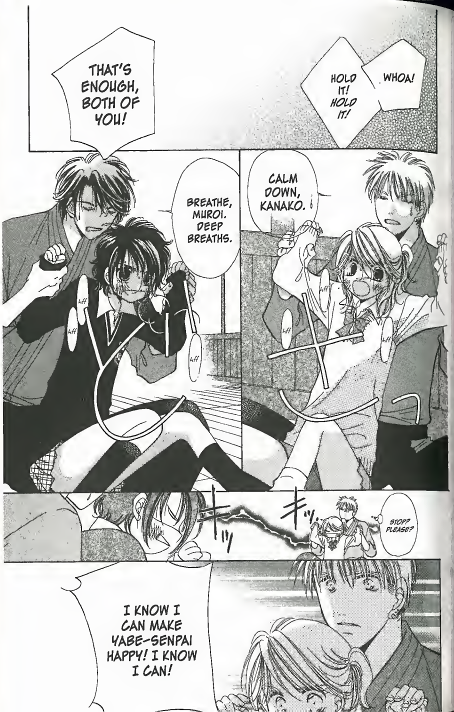

FREEZE
IF THIS IS ANYBODY'S BUSINESS, IT'S *MINE.*
AND YOU'RE BUTTING IN, HIRAO-SENPAI!
YEOWCH.
UH... HIRAO?
glance
YOU STILL ALIVE THERE, MAN?
This is an awkward position, guy
I'M NOT SAYING THAT TO BE MEAN.
YOU'RE JUST... TOO NICE, HIRAO-SENPAI.
YOU TRY SO HARD TO HELP EVERYBODY.
YOU KEEP WORRYING LIKE THIS, YOU'RE GOING TO LOSE ALL YOUR HAIR!
DON'T LIE, YURI. YOU'RE TOTALLY STOKED TO SEE TWO GUYS FIGHTING OVER YOU. ADMIT IT!
HUH?

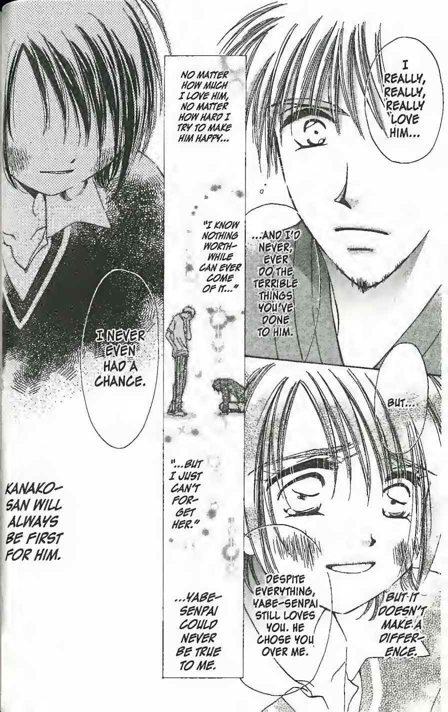

BE HONEST. YOU LIKE HAVING EVERYBODY FUSS OVER YOU.
IT MAKES YOU FEEL LIKE...
...THE HEROINE OF SOME GRANDIOSE TRAGEDY.
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU?! SHE'S MY SISTER!!
IT WAS JUST A LITTLE FAMILY QUARREL!
Leggo!!
MOTOKO = DELAYED.
What the heck?
So strong!
HOLD IT!!
FREEZE!! YOU WERE ALREADY BUSTED AT THE CULTURE FESTIVAL!!
THAT WAS A GUY!
THAT'S NOT THE POINT!
YOU PLAY THE GOOD, INNOCENT GIRL, WITH YOUR FAKE SMILES AND FALSE ASSURANCES, LIKE NOTHING'S EVER WRONG...
...SO EVERYONE WILL FAWN OVER POOR, PITIABLE YOU.
YOU LOVE IT!

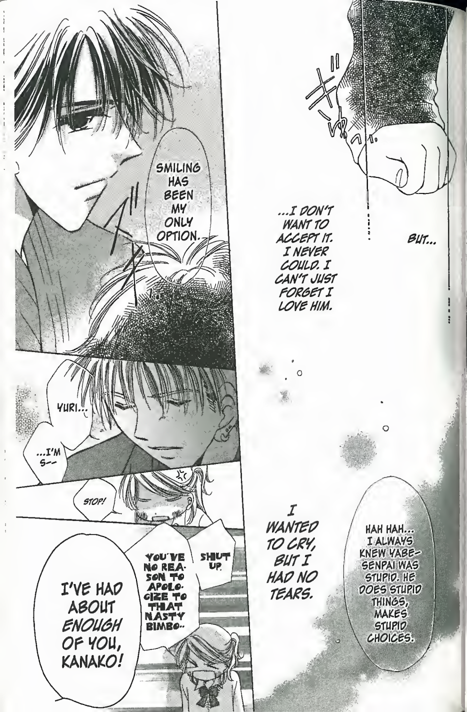

DISGUST-ING.
I HATE SHALLOW PHONIES LIKE YOU.
WHAT?!
K-KANAKO?
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO PULL?
ACK! HIRAO, WAKE UP!
DON'T GO FAINT-ING ON ME NOW!
FLOP
WHERE'D SHE COME FROM?!
Senpai...
Hey!!
PILE ON ALL THE MAKE-UP YOU CAN...
...YOU'LL STILL NEVER BE EVEN VAGUELY PRETTY.
Calm down
twitch
YOU'RE CAGEY, BUT YOU'RE DUMB.
Brush off
GRRRR
I MEAN, SERIOUSLY. I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT POSSESSED TAKAHIRO TO EVEN BOTHER GOING OUT WITH...
WSH

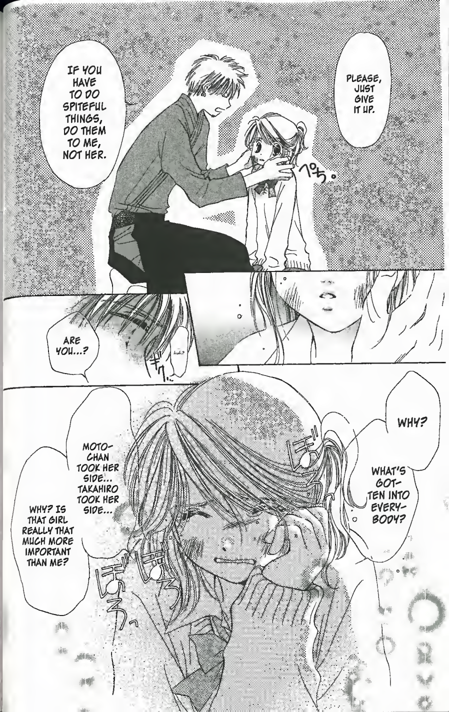

...A SKANK LIKE Y--
YOU DON'T UNDER-STAND?!
NO, I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YABE-SENPAI WOULD EVER LOVE SOMEONE AS AWFUL AS YOU!
MEIRIN

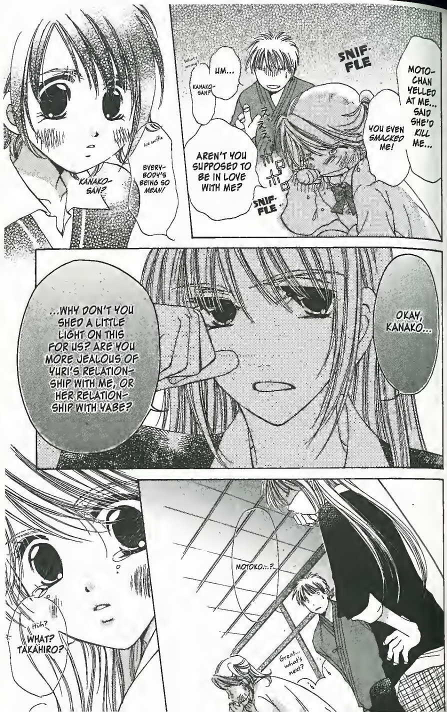

WHERE DO YOU GET THE RIGHT...
...TO SLAP ME, YOU WHORE!
One nasty catfight...
BECAUSE YOU PISS ME OFF, BITCH!
YOU PISS ME OFF MORE, SLUT!
WATCH YOUR MOUTH, PSYCHO!
DROPPED THE "GOOD GIRL" ACT REAL QUICK, DIDN'T YOU, TRAMP!
SLAP
SLAP
SEN-PAI!
I'm scared!!
SEN-PAI!
Terrified boys!

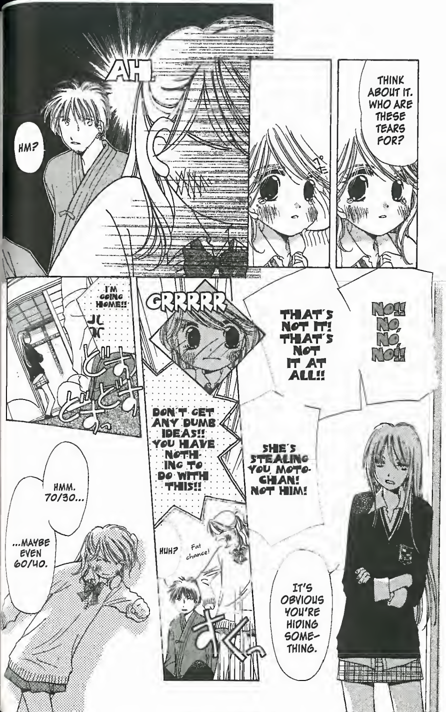

WHOA!
HOLD IT! HOLD IT!
THAT'S ENOUGH, BOTH OF YOU!
CALM DOWN, KANAKO.
hff
hff
BREATHE, MUROI. DEEP BREATHS.
hff
hff
STOP? PLEASE?
I KNOW I CAN MAKE YABE-SENPAI HAPPY! I KNOW I CAN!

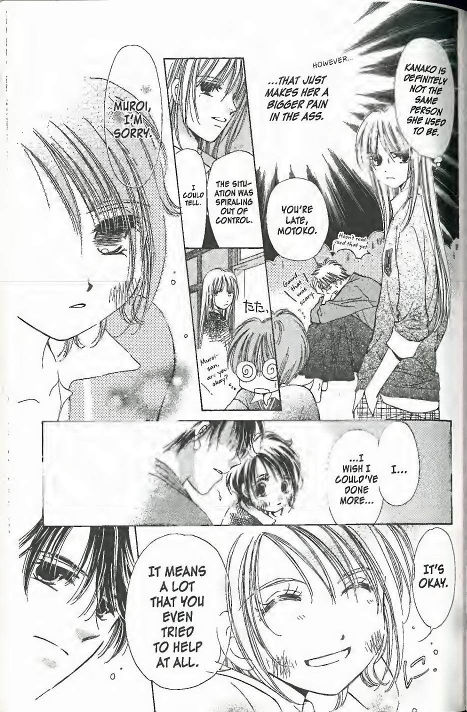

I REALLY, REALLY, REALLY LOVE HIM...
NO MATTER HOW MUCH I LOVE HIM, NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRY TO MAKE HIM HAPPY...
...AND I'D NEVER, EVER DO THE TERRIBLE THINGS YOU'VE DONE TO HIM.
"I KNOW NOTHING WORTHWHILE CAN EVER COME OF IT..."
"...BUT I JUST CAN'T FORGET HER."
...YABE-SENPAI COULD NEVER BE TRUE TO ME.
BUT...
BUT IT DOESN'T MAKE A DIFFERENCE.
DESPITE EVERYTHING, YABE-SENPAI STILL LOVES YOU. HE CHOSE YOU OVER ME.
I NEVER EVEN HAD A CHANCE.
KANAKO-SAN WILL ALWAYS BE FIRST FOR HIM.

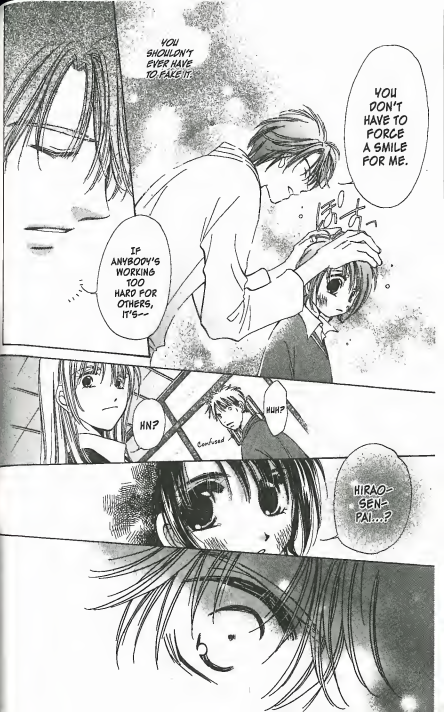

BUT...
...I DON'T WANT TO ACCEPT IT. I NEVER COULD. I CAN'T JUST FORGET I LOVE HIM.
HAH HAH... I ALWAYS KNEW YABE-SENPAI WAS STUPID. HE DOES STUPID THINGS, MAKES STUPID CHOICES.
I WANTED TO CRY, BUT I HAD NO TEARS.
SMILING HAS BEEN MY ONLY OPTION.
YURI...
...I'M S--
STOP!
SHUT UP.
YOU'VE NO REASON TO APOLOGIZE TO THAT NASTY BIMBO..
I'VE HAD ABOUT ENOUGH OF YOU, KANAKO!

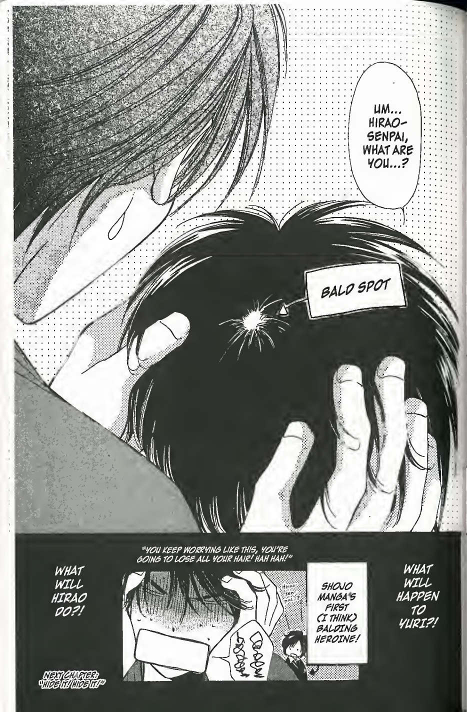

PLEASE, JUST GIVE IT UP.
IF YOU HAVE TO DO SPITEFUL THINGS, DO THEM TO ME, NOT HER.
ペち。
ARE YOU...?
huh?
WHY?
WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO EVERYBODY?
MOTO-CHAN TOOK HER SIDE... TAKAHIRO TOOK HER SIDE...
WHY? IS THAT GIRL REALLY THAT MUCH MORE IMPORTANT THAN ME?


MOTO-CHAN YELLED AT ME... SAID SHE'D KILL ME...
SNIF-FLE
UM...
What's wrong?
KANAKO-SAN?
YOU EVEN SMACKED ME!
AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE IN LOVE WITH ME?
SNIF-FLE
hic sniffle
EVERYBODY'S BEING SO MEAN!
KANAKO-SAN?
OKAY, KANAKO...
...WHY DON'T YOU SHED A LITTLE LIGHT ON THIS FOR US? ARE YOU MORE JEALOUS OF YURI'S RELATIONSHIP WITH ME, OR HER RELATIONSHIP WITH YABE?
MOTOKO...?
Great... what's next?
Huh?
WHAT? TAKAHIRO?


THINK ABOUT IT. WHO ARE THESE TEARS FOR?
AH
HM?
NO!! NO, NO, NO!!
THAT'S NOT IT! THAT'S NOT IT AT ALL!!
GRRRRR
DON'T GET ANY DUMB IDEAS!! YOU HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS!!
I'M GOING HOME!!
IT'S OBVIOUS YOU'RE HIDING SOMETHING.
SHE'S STEALING YOU, MOTO-CHAN! NOT HIM!
HUH?
Fat chance!
HMM. 70/30...
...MAYBE EVEN 60/40.

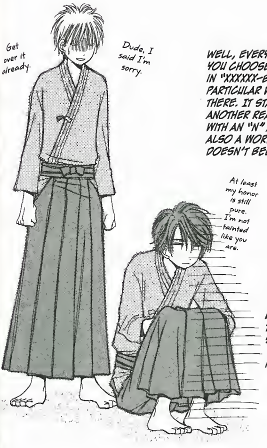

KANAKO IS DEFINITELY NOT THE SAME PERSON SHE USED TO BE.
HOWEVER...
...THAT JUST MAKES HER A BIGGER PAIN IN THE ASS.
THE SITUATION WAS SPIRALING OUT OF CONTROL.
I COULD TELL.
MUROI, I'M SORRY.
YOU'RE LATE, MOTOKO.
Hasn't realized that yet
Gawd, that was scary...
たた
Muroi-san, are you okay?
I...
...I WISH I COULD'VE DONE MORE...
IT'S OKAY.
IT MEANS A LOT THAT YOU EVEN TRIED TO HELP AT ALL.


YOU DON'T HAVE TO FORCE A SMILE FOR ME.
YOU SHOULDN'T EVER HAVE TO FAKE IT.
IF ANYBODY'S WORKING TOO HARD FOR OTHERS, IT'S--
HUH?
Confused
HN?
HIRAO-SEN-PAI...?

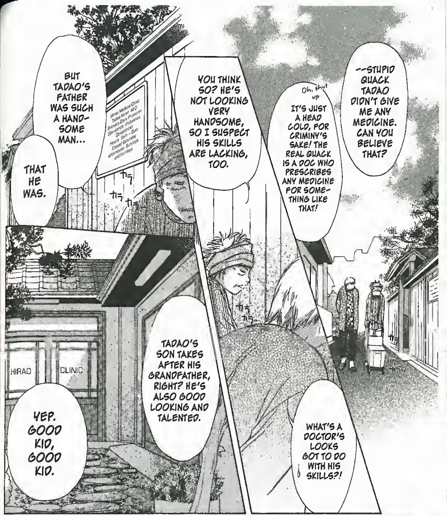

UM... HIRAO-SENPAI, WHAT ARE YOU...?
BALD SPOT
WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO YURI?!
SHOJO MANGA'S FIRST (I THINK) BALDING HEROINE!
"YOU KEEP WORRYING LIKE THIS, YOU'RE GOING TO LOSE ALL YOUR HAIR! HAH HAH!"
Hirao-sen-pai...?
WHAT WILL HIRAO DO?!
NEXT CHAPTER: "HIDE IT! HIDE IT!"

Gatcha Gacha

WELL, EVERYONE, WHAT EPITHET DID YOU CHOOSE TO FILL IN THE BLANK IN "XXXXXX-BOY"? I HAVE ONE VERY PARTICULAR WORD I CHOSE TO PUT IN THERE. IT STARTS WITH A "V." HERE'S ANOTHER REALLY BIG HINT. IT ENDS WITH AN "N" AND HAS 6 LETTERS. IT'S ALSO A WORD THAT REALLY, REALLY DOESN'T BELONG IN A SHOJO MANGA.


Dude, I said I'm sorry.
Get over it already.
At least my honor is still pure. I'm not tainted like you are.

UM...HIRAO-KUN... TRYING TO FIND SOMEBODY WHO ISN'T "TAINTED" IN THIS STORY IS NEXT TO IMPOSSIBLE.


--STUPID QUACK TADAO DIDN'T GIVE ME ANY MEDICINE. CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT?
Oh, shut up
IT'S JUST A HEAD COLD, FOR CRIMINY'S SAKE! THE REAL QUACK IS A DOC WHO PRESCRIBES ANY MEDICINE FOR SOMETHING LIKE THAT!
YOU THINK SO? HE'S NOT LOOKING VERY HANDSOME, SO I SUSPECT HIS SKILLS ARE LACKING, TOO.
BUT TADAO'S FATHER WAS SUCH A HANDSOME MAN...
THAT HE WAS.
Hirao Medical Clinic
カラ
WHAT'S A DOCTOR'S LOOKS GOT TO DO WITH HIS SKILLS?!
TADAO'S SON TAKES AFTER HIS GRANDFATHER, RIGHT? HE'S ALSO GOOD LOOKING AND TALENTED.
YEP. GOOD KID, GOOD KID.
HIRAO CLINIC

Recommended DVD

Triplets of Belleville

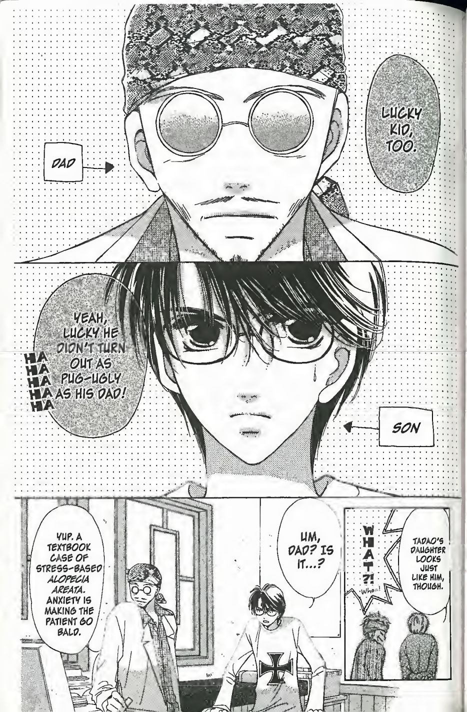
Sorry, I had to do it. I had to recommend another animated feature. And it's a French one, no less. Even though it's animated, it still has that languid air that most French movies seem to have. It's probably one of those that will appeal to only a certain type of person, so consider yourself warned.

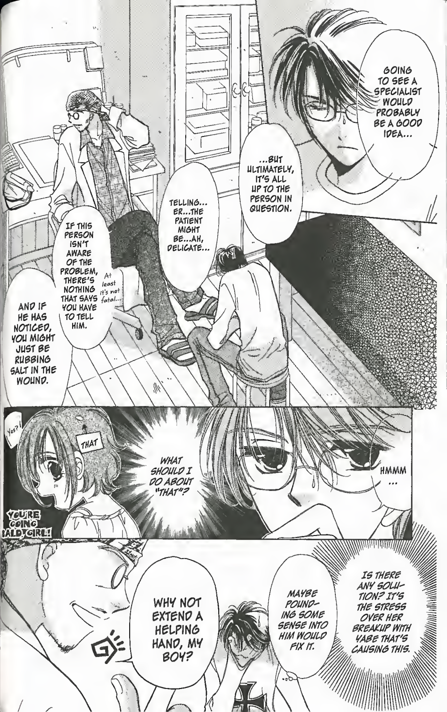
Anyway, I really, really like the theme song for this movie. The average age of the characters is surprisingly high, but that's one of the cool points about it. I mean, watching a heart-warming story with lots of healthy, elderly folk is neat.

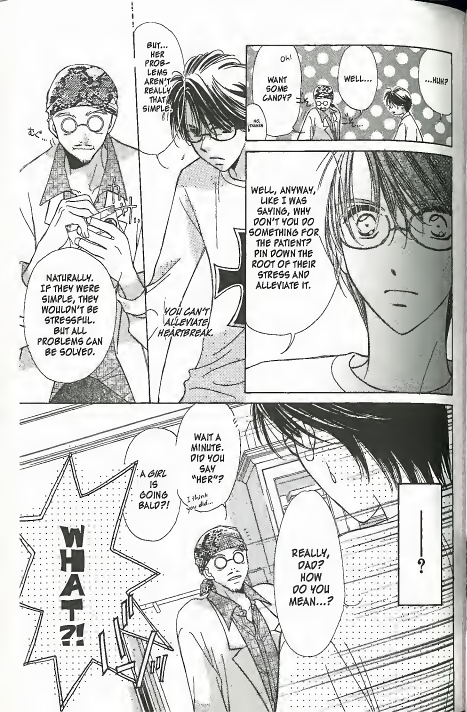
Um...aren't you recommending this?

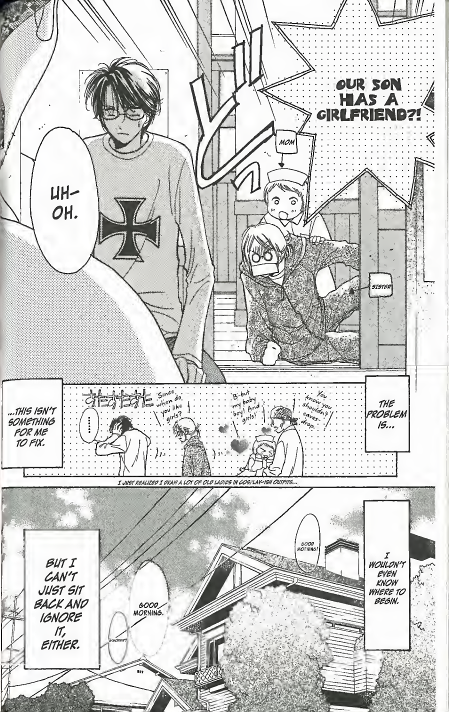
I counted at least 34 old ladies in the film.

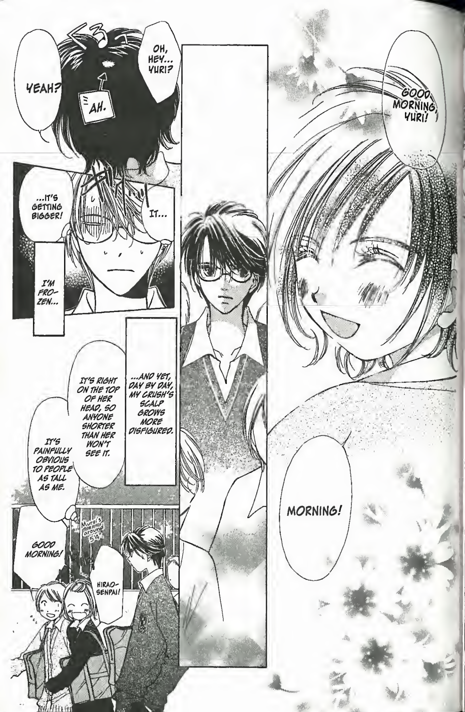
Not to give you the wrong impression or anything. This isn't really that slow of a movie, and it's definitely not quiet.

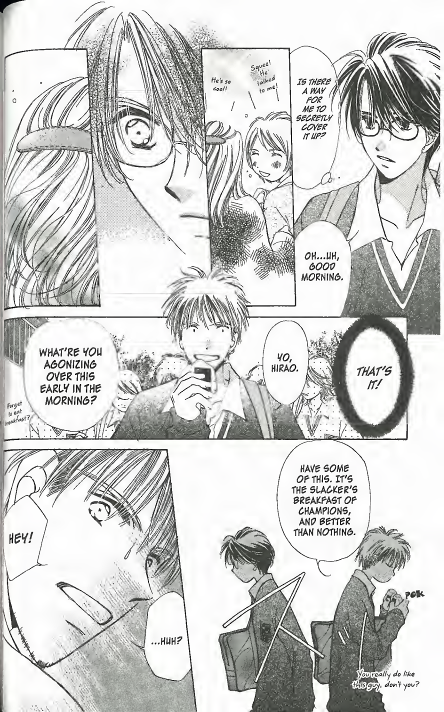

LUCKY KID, TOO.
DAD
YEAH, LUCKY HE DIDN'T TURN OUT AS PUG-UGLY AS HIS DAD!
HA HA HA HA HA
SON
TADAO'S DAUGHTER LOOKS JUST LIKE HIM, THOUGH.
WHAT?!
Whoa!
UM, DAD? IS IT...?
YUP. A TEXTBOOK CASE OF STRESS-BASED ALOPECIA AREATA. ANXIETY IS MAKING THE PATIENT GO BALD.

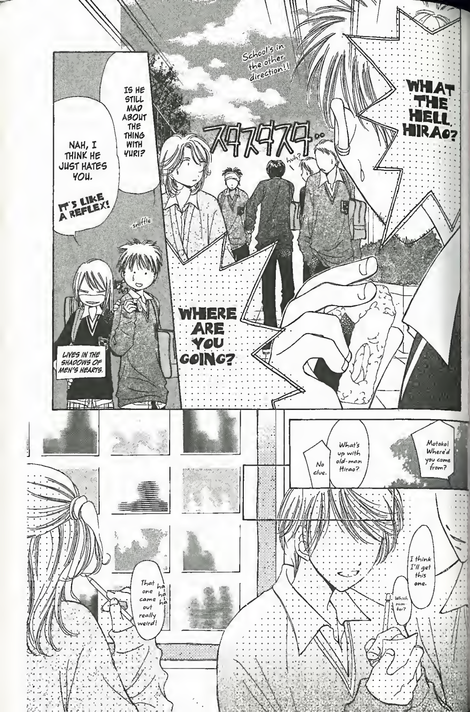

GOING TO SEE A SPECIALIST WOULD PROBABLY BE A GOOD IDEA...
...BUT ULTIMATELY, IT'S ALL UP TO THE PERSON IN QUESTION.
TELLING... ER...THE PATIENT MIGHT BE...AH, DELICATE...
IF THIS PERSON ISN'T AWARE OF THE PROBLEM, THERE'S NOTHING THAT SAYS YOU HAVE TO TELL HIM.
At least it's not fatal...
AND IF HE HAS NOTICED, YOU MIGHT JUST BE RUBBING SALT IN THE WOUND.
HMMM...
WHAT SHOULD I DO ABOUT "THAT"?
THAT
Yes?!
YOU'RE GOING BALD GIRL!
IS THERE ANY SOLUTION? IT'S THE STRESS OVER HER BREAKUP WITH YABE THAT'S CAUSING THIS.
MAYBE POUNDING SOME SENSE INTO HIM WOULD FIX IT.
WHY NOT EXTEND A HELPING HAND, MY BOY?

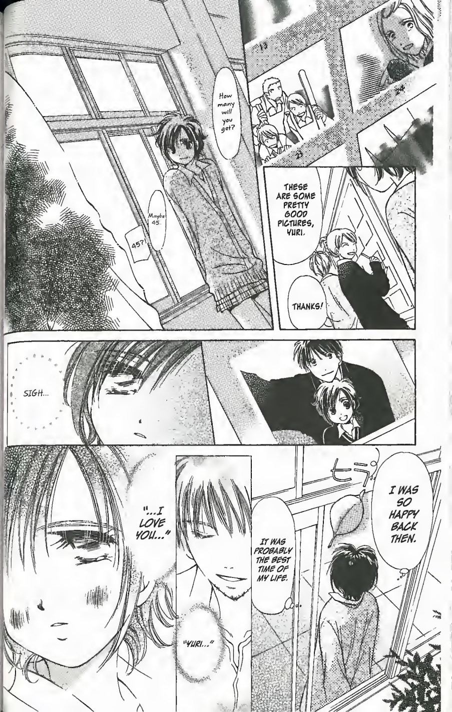

...HUH?
WELL...
Oh!
WANT SOME CANDY?
NO, THANKS
WELL, ANYWAY, LIKE I WAS SAYING, WHY DON'T YOU DO SOMETHING FOR THE PATIENT? PIN DOWN THE ROOT OF THEIR STRESS AND ALLEVIATE IT.
BUT... HER PROBLEMS AREN'T REALLY THAT SIMPLE.
NATURALLY. IF THEY WERE SIMPLE, THEY WOULDN'T BE STRESSFUL. BUT ALL PROBLEMS CAN BE SOLVED.
YOU CAN'T ALLEVIATE HEARTBREAK.
—?
REALLY, DAD? HOW DO YOU MEAN...?
WAIT A MINUTE. DID YOU SAY "HER"?
I think you did...
A GIRL IS GOING BALD?!
WHAT?!

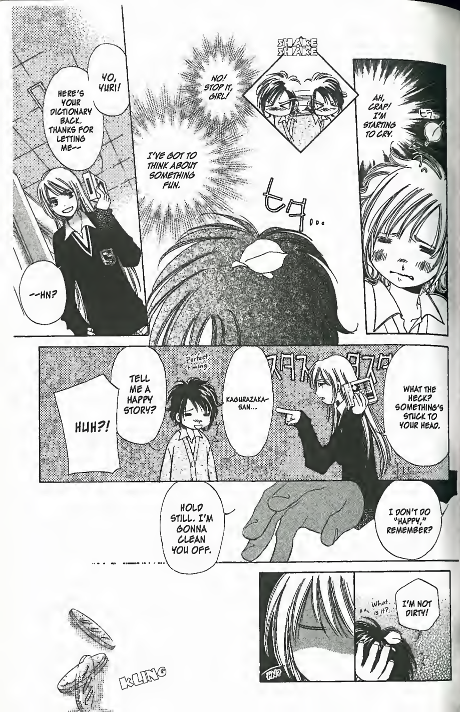

ドン
UH-OH.
OUR SON HAS A GIRLFRIEND?!
MOM
SISTER
THE PROBLEM IS...
...THIS ISN'T SOMETHING FOR ME TO FIX.
おたおたおた
......
Since when do you like girls?
B-but my baby boy! And girls!
You know you shouldn't eavesdrop.
I JUST REALIZED I DRAW A LOT OF OLD LADIES IN COSPLAY-ISH OUTFITS...
I WOULDN'T EVEN KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN.
GOOD MORNING!
BUT I CAN'T JUST SIT BACK AND IGNORE IT, EITHER.
GOOD MORNING.
G'MORNIN'

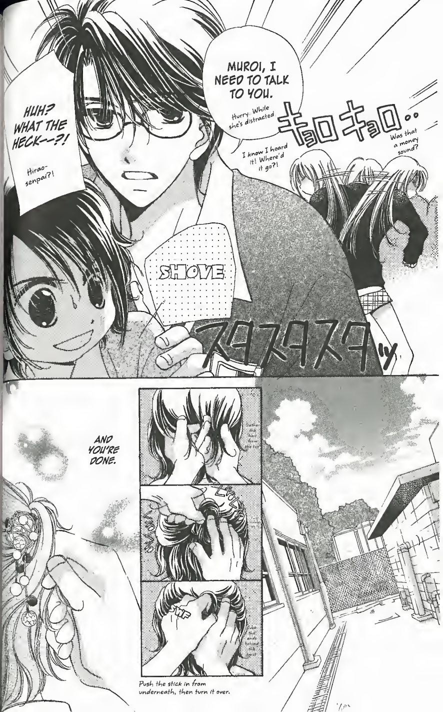

GOOD MORNING, YURI!
MORNING!
OH, HEY... YURI?
YEAH?
AH.
IT...
...IT'S GETTING BIGGER!
I'M FROZEN...
...AND YET, DAY BY DAY, MY CRUSH'S SCALP GROWS MORE DISFIGURED.
IT'S RIGHT ON THE TOP OF HER HEAD, SO ANYONE SHORTER THAN HER WON'T SEE IT.
IT'S PAINFULLY OBVIOUS TO PEOPLE AS TALL AS ME.
GOOD MORNING!
HIRAO-SENPAI!
Muroi's around 5'4

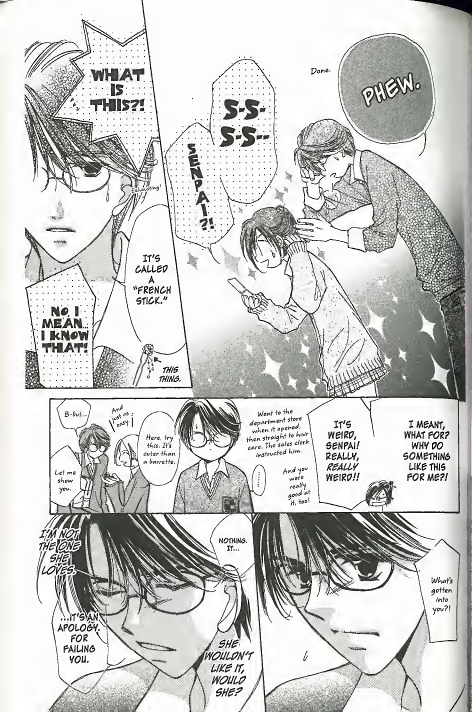

IS THERE A WAY FOR ME TO SECRETLY COVER IT UP?
Squee! He talked to me!
He's so cool!
OH...UH, GOOD MORNING.
THAT'S IT!
YO, HIRAO.
WHAT'RE YOU AGONIZING OVER THIS EARLY IN THE MORNING?
Forget to eat breakfast?
HAVE SOME OF THIS. IT'S THE SLACKER'S BREAKFAST OF CHAMPIONS, AND BETTER THAN NOTHING.
POK
You really do like this guy, don't you?
HEY!
...HUH?

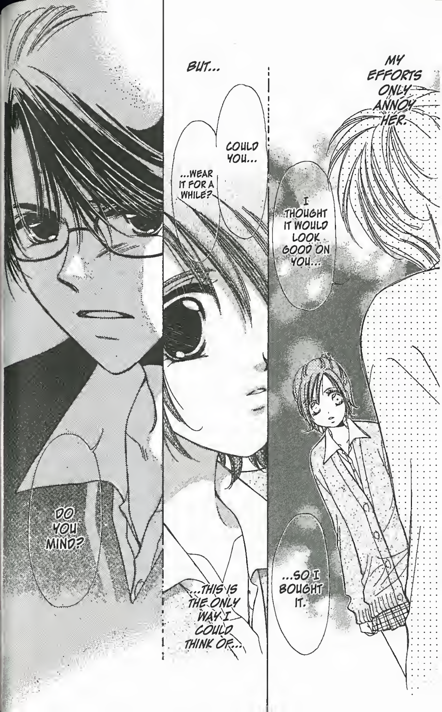

WHAT THE HELL, HIRAO?
School's in the other direction!!
スタスタスタ
huh?
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
IS HE STILL MAD ABOUT THE THING WITH YURI?
NAH, I THINK HE JUST HATES YOU.
IT'S LIKE A REFLEX!
sniffle
LIVES IN THE SHADOWS OF MEN'S HEARTS.
Motoko! Where'd you come from?
What's up with old-man Hirao?
No clue.
I think I'll get this one.
Which number?
That one came out really weird!
ha ha ha

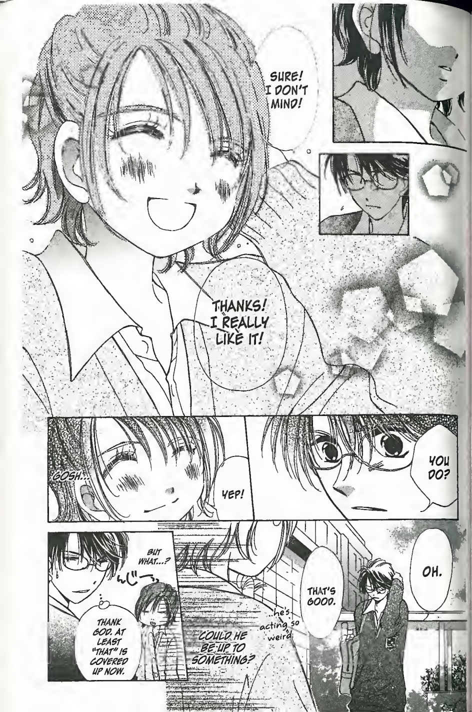

13
24
23
THESE ARE SOME PRETTY GOOD PICTURES, YURI.
THANKS!
How many will you get?
Maybe 45.
45?!
SIGH...
ヒラ
I WAS SO HAPPY BACK THEN.
IT WAS PROBABLY THE BEST TIME OF MY LIFE.
"...I LOVE YOU..."
"YURI..."

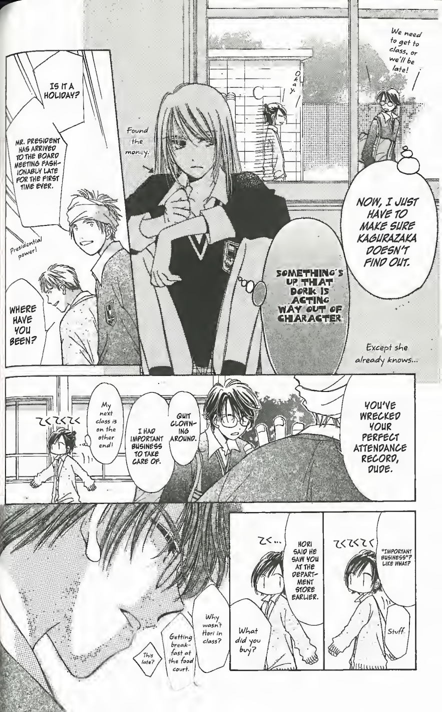

AH, CRAP! I'M STARTING TO CRY.
ヒラ
ヒタ
Doo
SHAKE SHAKE
NO! STOP IT, GIRL!
I'VE GOT TO THINK ABOUT SOMETHING FUN.
YO, YURI!
HERE'S YOUR DICTIONARY BACK. THANKS FOR LETTING ME--
--HN?
WHAT THE HECK? SOMETHING'S STUCK TO YOUR HEAD.
スタスタ
KAGURAZAKA-SAN...
Perfect timing.
TELL ME A HAPPY STORY?
HUH?!
I DON'T DO "HAPPY," REMEMBER?
HOLD STILL. I'M GONNA CLEAN YOU OFF.
I'M NOT DIRTY!
What is it?..
HN?
KLING


MUROI, I NEED TO TALK TO YOU.
HUH? WHAT THE HECK--?!
Hirao-senpai?!
Hurry. While she's distracted
キョロキョロ。。
Was that a money sound?
I know I heard it! Where'd it go?!
SHOVE
スタスタスタッ
Gather the hair from the top
TWIST
TWIST
Tuck the ends behind the twist
SWF
AND YOU'RE DONE.
Push the stick in from underneath, then turn it over.


Done.
PHEW.
S-S-S-S--
SENPAI?!
WHAT IS THIS?!
Exhausting!
IT'S CALLED A "FRENCH STICK."
NO I MEAN.. I KNOW THAT!
THIS THING.
I MEANT, WHAT FOR? WHY DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS FOR ME?!
IT'S WEIRD, SENPAI! REALLY, REALLY WEIRD!!
And you were really good at it, too!
......
Went to the department store when it opened, then straight to hair care. The sales clerk instructed him.
Here, try this. It's cuter than a barrette.
And just as easy
B-but..
Let me show you.
What's gotten into you?!
NOTHING. IT...
SHE WOULDN'T LIKE IT, WOULD SHE?
I'M NOT THE ONE SHE LOVES.
...IT'S AN APOLOGY. FOR FAILING YOU.


MY EFFORTS ONLY ANNOY HER.
I THOUGHT IT WOULD LOOK GOOD ON YOU...
...SO I BOUGHT IT.
BUT...
COULD YOU...
...WEAR IT FOR A WHILE?
...THIS IS THE ONLY WAY I COULD THINK OF...
DO YOU MIND?

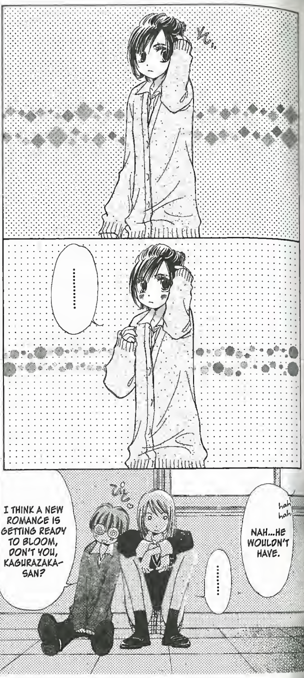

SURE! I DON'T MIND!
THANKS! I REALLY LIKE IT!
YOU DO?
YEP!
GOSH...
OH.
THAT'S GOOD.
...he's acting so weird.
COULD HE BE UP TO SOMETHING?
BUT WHAT...?
んじー
THANK GOD. AT LEAST "THAT" IS COVERED UP NOW.

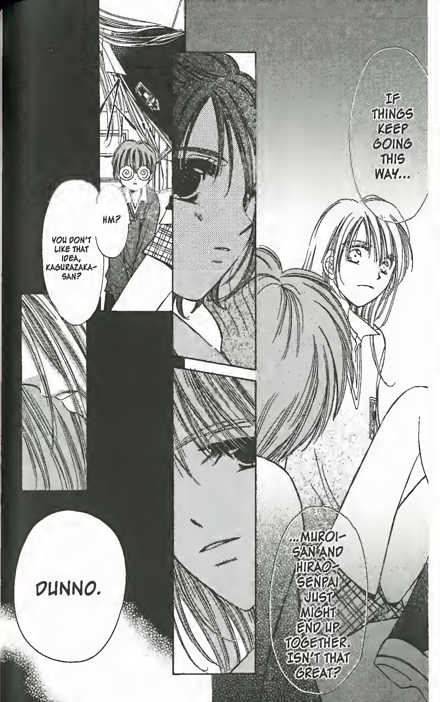

We need to get to class, or we'll be late!
Okay.
NOW, I JUST HAVE TO MAKE SURE KAGURAZAKA DOESN'T FIND OUT.
Found the money.
SOMETHING'S UP. THAT DORK IS ACTING WAY OUT OF CHARACTER.
Except she already knows...
IS IT A HOLIDAY?
MR. PRESIDENT HAS ARRIVED TO THE BOARD MEETING FASHIONABLY LATE FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER.
Presidential power!
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?
YOU'VE WRECKED YOUR PERFECT ATTENDANCE RECORD, DUDE.
QUIT CLOWNING AROUND.
I HAD IMPORTANT BUSINESS TO TAKE CARE OF.
My next class is on the other end!
てくてくてく
てくてくてく
"IMPORTANT BUSINESS"? LIKE WHAT?
Stuff.
てく...
HORI SAID HE SAW YOU AT THE DEPARTMENT STORE EARLIER.
What did you buy?
Why wasn't Hori in class?
Getting breakfast at the food court.
This late?

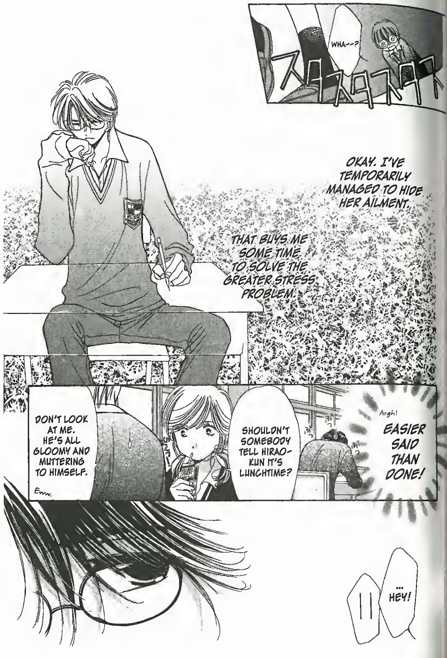
Since I'm writing a story set in a high school, I often find myself wondering about education in Japan and some of the various problems. One issue that comes to mind often is "corporal punishment." I'm starting to think the world might be overreacting to the whole idea. I mean, the other day, I was watching a rerun of "Sazae-san." There used to be a scene where Katsuo had to stand in the hall holding a bucket of water as punishment, and it's been removed. (Seriously, does that count as "corporal punishment," too?)

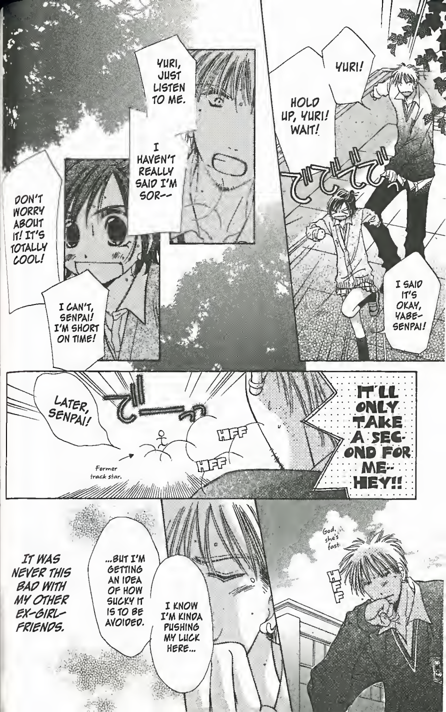
I wasn't the best behaved kid when I was little, I admit. I constantly forgot to bring things to class, annoying my teachers to no end and earning me many trips out to the hall with a bucket. I snacked like mad during class, too, so I almost never finished my lunches. That meant more than one detention for me. But you know, that never really bothered me. In fact, my mom was sometimes embarrassed by how unconcerned I was about my predicament. (Other kids, even some boys, cried when they got detention.) I was a weird child, so I had this strange idea that teachers only punished me because they absolutely had to. There was no other way to stifle my cuteness! Basically, I knew that even though I was getting "scolded" all the time, nobody was ever really "angry" with me.

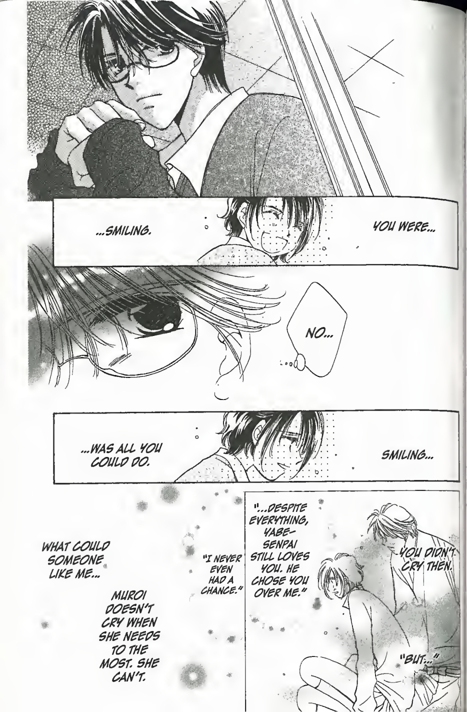
I'd really like it if, when raising kids, people approached the task with a balance of love and reason. Kids aren't as dumb as adults like to think. They know when the hand that's smacking them upside the head is doing so out of love.

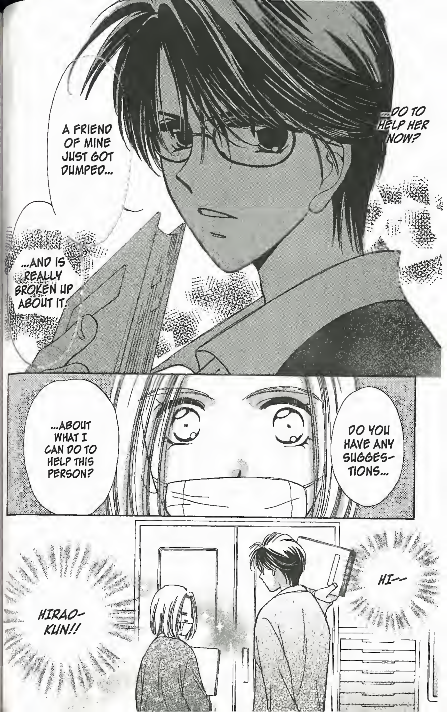

......
hah hah
NAH...HE WOULDN'T HAVE.
I THINK A NEW ROMANCE IS GETTING READY TO BLOOM, DON'T YOU, KAGURAZAKA-SAN?
......

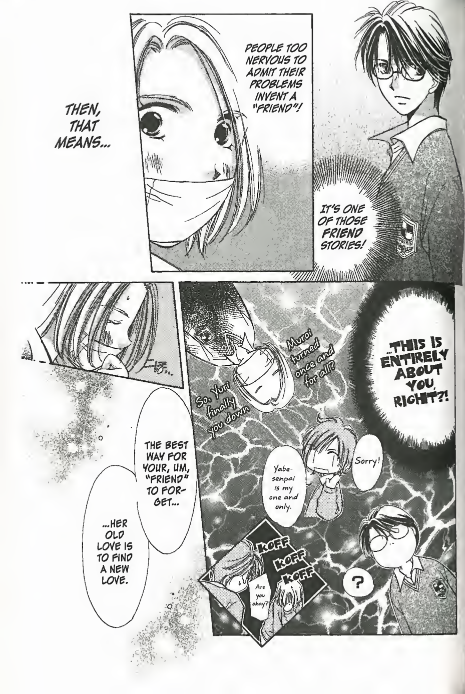

IF THINGS KEEP GOING THIS WAY...
...MUROI-SAN AND HIRAO-SENPAI JUST MIGHT END UP TOGETHER. ISN'T THAT GREAT?
HM?
YOU DON'T LIKE THAT IDEA, KAGURAZAKA-SAN?
DUNNO.

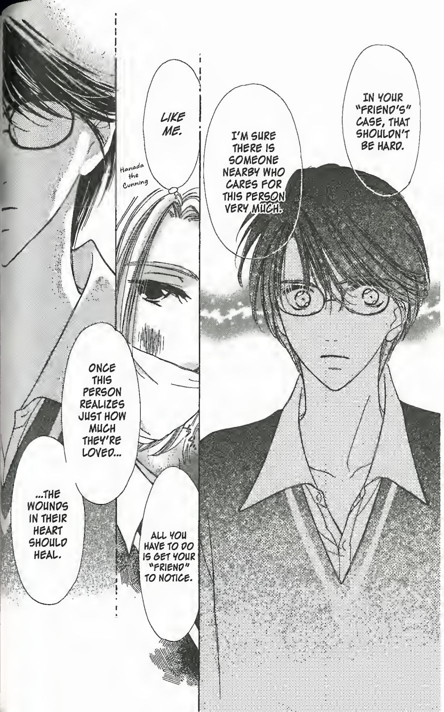

スタスタスタス
WHA--?
OKAY. I'VE TEMPORARILY MANAGED TO HIDE HER AILMENT.
THAT BUYS ME SOME TIME TO SOLVE THE GREATER STRESS PROBLEM.
Argh!
EASIER SAID THAN DONE!
SHOULDN'T SOMEBODY TELL HIRAO-KUN IT'S LUNCHTIME?
DON'T LOOK AT ME. HE'S ALL GLOOMY AND MUTTERING TO HIMSELF.
Eww.
... HEY!
!!

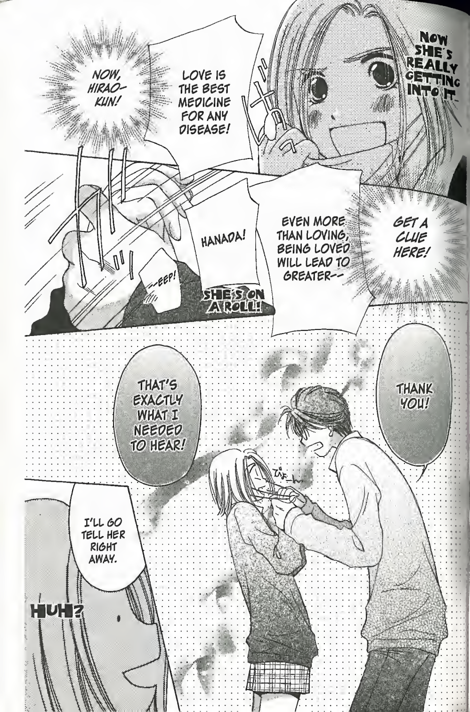

YURI!
HOLD UP, YURI! WAIT!
でででで
I SAID IT'S OKAY, YABE-SENPAI!
YURI, JUST LISTEN TO ME.
I HAVEN'T REALLY SAID I'M SOR--
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT! IT'S TOTALLY COOL!
I CAN'T, SENPAI! I'M SHORT ON TIME!
IT'LL ONLY TAKE A SECOND FOR ME-- HEY!!
HFF
HFF
で――っ
LATER, SENPAI!
Former track star.
God, she's fast.
HFF
I KNOW I'M KINDA PUSHING MY LUCK HERE...
...BUT I'M GETTING AN IDEA OF HOW SUCKY IT IS TO BE AVOIDED.
IT WAS NEVER THIS BAD WITH MY OTHER EX-GIRLFRIENDS.

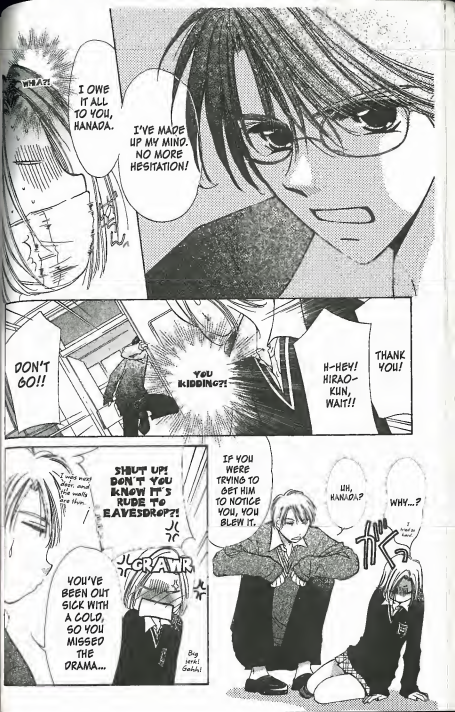

YOU WERE...
...SMILING.
NO...
SMILING...
...WAS ALL YOU COULD DO.
YOU DIDN'T CRY THEN.
"...DESPITE EVERYTHING, YABE-SENPAI STILL LOVES YOU. HE CHOSE YOU OVER ME."
"I NEVER EVEN HAD A CHANCE."
"BUT..."
WHAT COULD SOMEONE LIKE ME...
MUROI DOESN'T CRY WHEN SHE NEEDS TO THE MOST. SHE CAN'T.

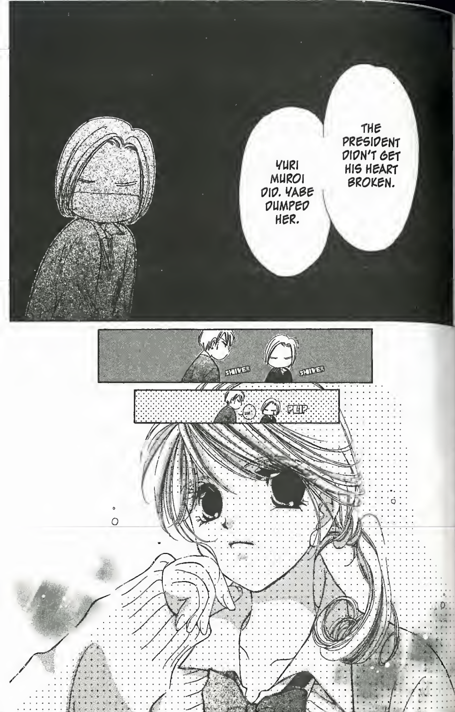

A FRIEND OF MINE JUST GOT DUMPED...
...AND IS REALLY BROKEN UP ABOUT IT.
...DO TO HELP HER NOW?
DO YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS...
...ABOUT WHAT I CAN DO TO HELP THIS PERSON?
HI--
HIRAO-KUN!!

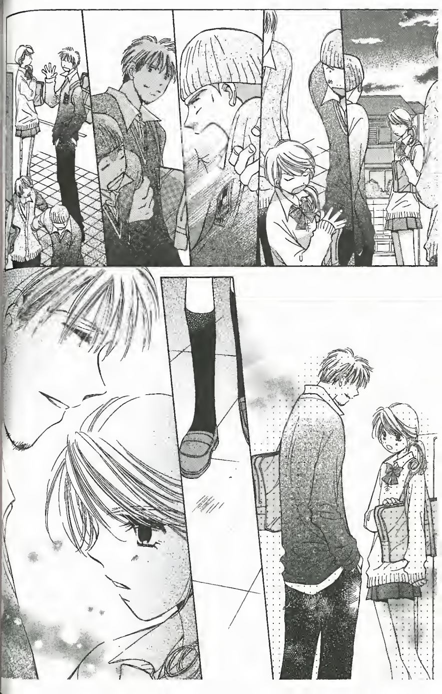

PEOPLE TOO NERVOUS TO ADMIT THEIR PROBLEMS INVENT A "FRIEND"!
IT'S ONE OF THOSE FRIEND STORIES!
THEN, THAT MEANS...
...THIS IS ENTIRELY ABOUT YOU, RIGHT?!
So, Yuri Muroi finally turned you down once and for all?
Sorry!
Yabe-senpai is my one and only.
?
KOFF KOFF KOFF
Are you okay?
THE BEST WAY FOR YOUR, UM, "FRIEND" TO FORGET...
...HER OLD LOVE IS TO FIND A NEW LOVE.

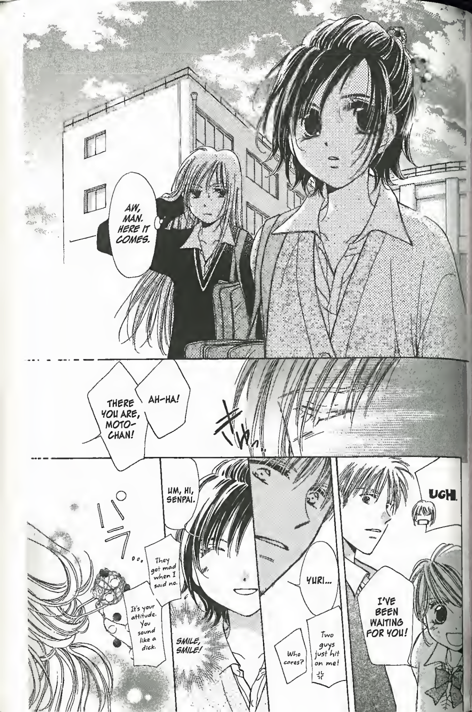

IN YOUR "FRIEND'S" CASE, THAT SHOULDN'T BE HARD.
I'M SURE THERE IS SOMEONE NEARBY WHO CARES FOR THIS PERSON VERY MUCH.
LIKE ME.
Hanada the Cunning
ONCE THIS PERSON REALIZES JUST HOW MUCH THEY'RE LOVED...
...THE WOUNDS IN THEIR HEART SHOULD HEAL.
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS GET YOUR "FRIEND" TO NOTICE.

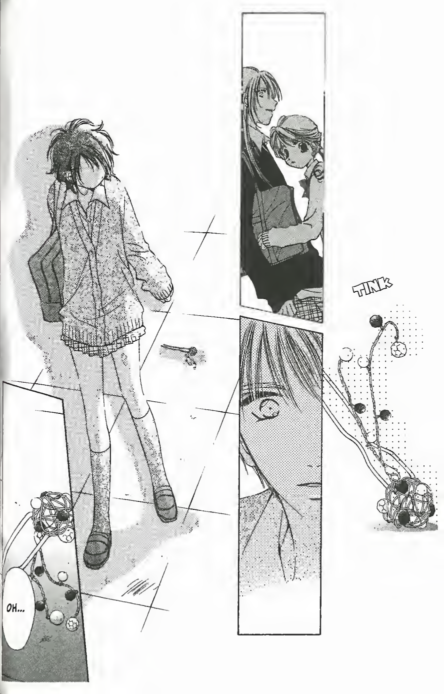

NOW SHE'S REALLY GETTING INTO IT.
LOVE IS THE BEST MEDICINE FOR ANY DISEASE!
NOW, HIRAO-KUN!
GET A CLUE HERE!
EVEN MORE THAN LOVING, BEING LOVED WILL LEAD TO GREATER--
HANADA!
SHE'S ON A ROLL!
--EEP!
THANK YOU!
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I NEEDED TO HEAR!
I'LL GO TELL HER RIGHT AWAY.
HUH?

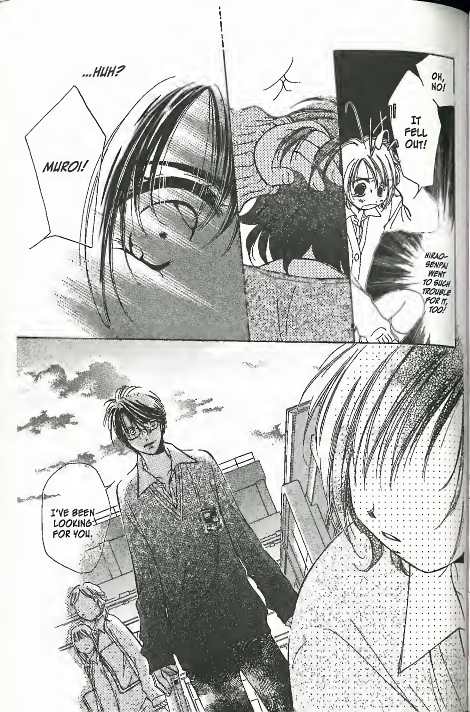

I've made up my mind. No more hesitation!
I owe it all to you, Hanada.
WHAA?!
Thank you!
H-hey! Hirao-kun, wait!!
You kidding?!
Don't go!!
Why...?
I tried so hard.
Uh, Hanada?
If you were trying to get him to notice you, you blew it.
Shut up! Don't you know it's rude to eavesdrop?!
I was next door, and the walls are thin...
GRAWR
You've been out sick with a cold, so you missed the drama...
Big jerk! Gahh!

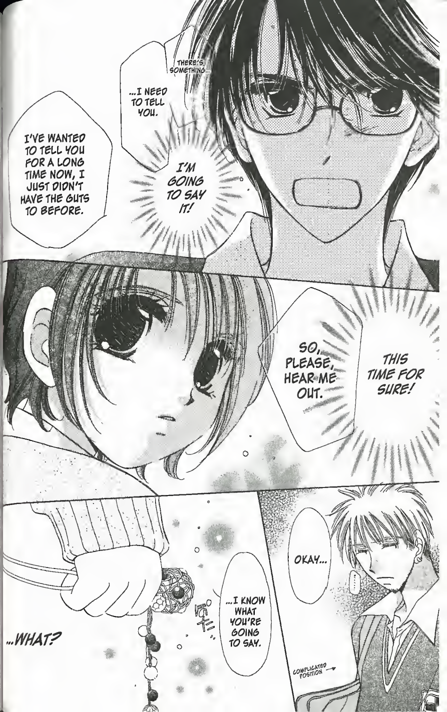

The president didn't get his heart broken.
Yuri Muroi did. Yabe dumped her.
SHIVER
SHIVER
UH
PLIP

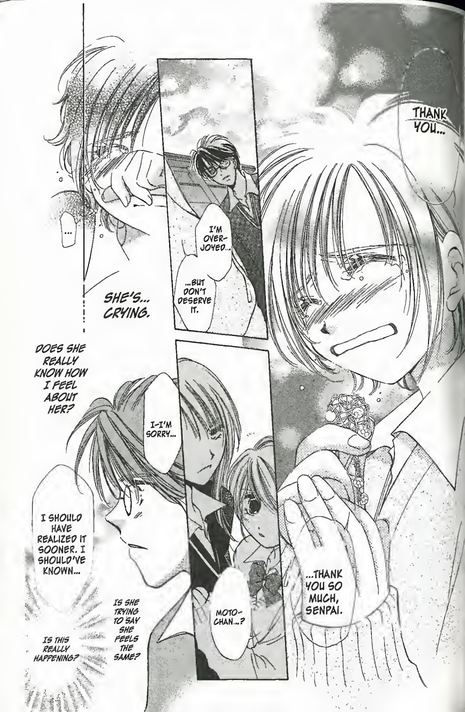


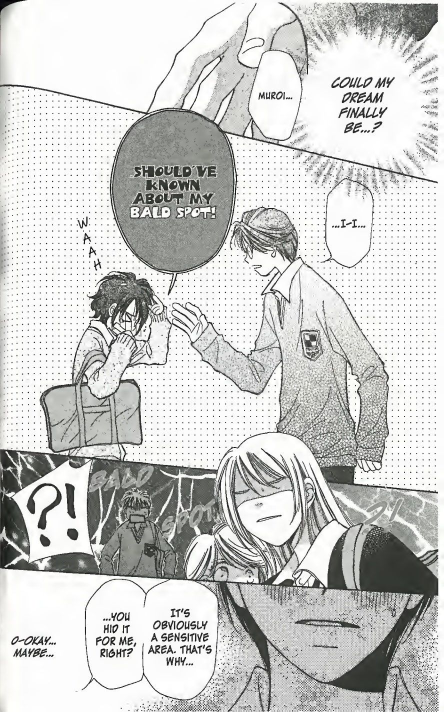

AW, MAN. HERE IT COMES.
AH-HA!
THERE YOU ARE, MOTO-CHAN!
きゅ
UGH.
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU!
Two guys just hit on me!
YURI...
Who cares?
UM, HI, SENPAI.
They got mad when I said no.
It's your attitude. You sound like a dick.
SMILE, SMILE!
パラ

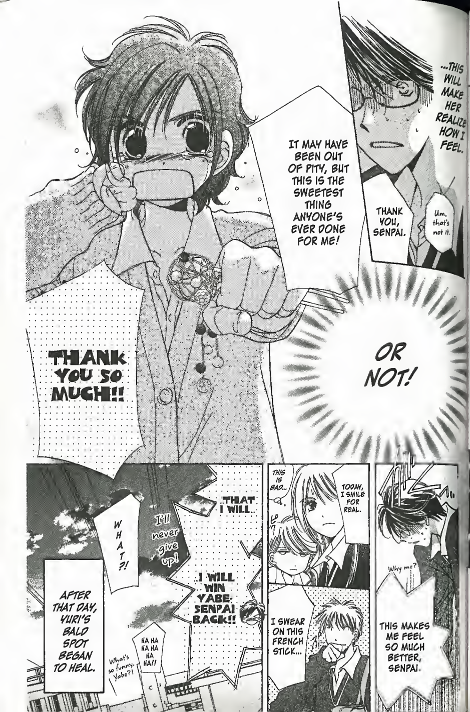

TINK
OH...

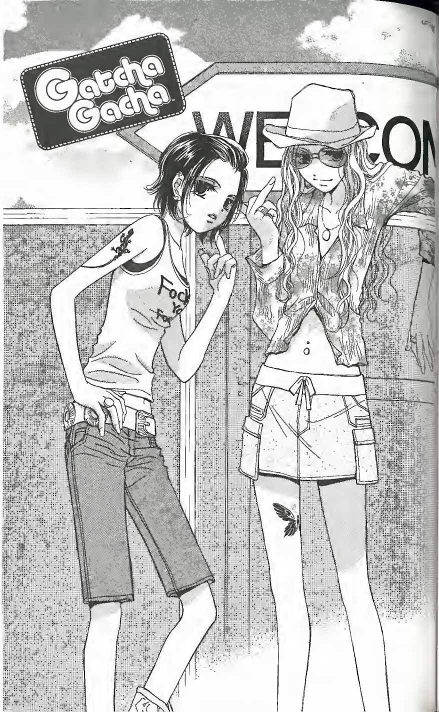

OH, NO!
IT FELL OUT!
HIRAO-SENPAI WENT TO SUCH TROUBLE FOR IT, TOO!
...HUH?
MUROI!
I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU.

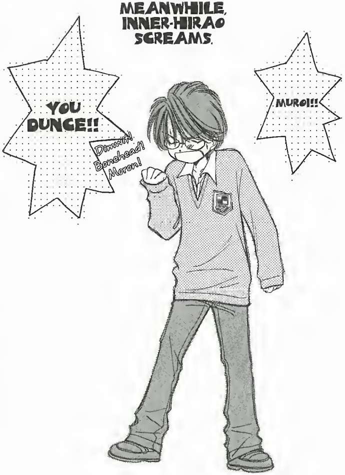

THERE'S SOMETHING...
...I NEED TO TELL YOU.
I'M GOING TO SAY IT!
I'VE WANTED TO TELL YOU FOR A LONG TIME NOW, I JUST DIDN'T HAVE THE GUTS TO BEFORE.
THIS TIME FOR SURE!
SO, PLEASE, HEAR ME OUT.
OKAY...
...
...I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO SAY.
...WHAT?
COMPLICATED POSITION

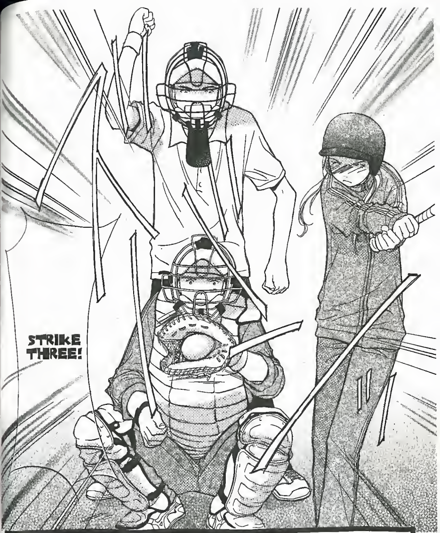

THANK YOU...
I'M OVER-JOYED...
...BUT DON'T DESERVE IT.
SHE'S... CRYING.
...
...THANK YOU SO MUCH, SENPAI.
MOTO-CHAN...?
I-I'M SORRY...
DOES SHE REALLY KNOW HOW I FEEL ABOUT HER?
I SHOULD HAVE REALIZED IT SOONER. I SHOULD'VE KNOWN...
IS SHE TRYING TO SAY SHE FEELS THE SAME?
IS THIS REALLY HAPPENING?


COULD MY DREAM FINALLY BE...?
MUROI...
...I-I...
SHOULD'VE KNOWN ABOUT MY BALD SPOT!
WAAH
?!
BALD SPOT
?!
IT'S OBVIOUSLY A SENSITIVE AREA. THAT'S WHY...
...YOU HID IT FOR ME, RIGHT?
O-OKAY... MAYBE...


...THIS WILL MAKE HER REALIZE HOW I FEEL.
Um, that's not it.
THANK YOU, SENPAI.
IT MAY HAVE BEEN OUT OF PITY, BUT THIS IS THE SWEETEST THING ANYONE'S EVER DONE FOR ME!
THANK YOU SO MUCH!!
OR NOT!
Why me?
THIS MAKES ME FEEL SO MUCH BETTER, SENPAI.
TODAY, I SMILE FOR REAL.
THIS IS BAD...
I SWEAR ON THIS FRENCH STICK...
...THAT I WILL...
I WILL WIN YABE-SENPAI BACK!!
I'll never give up!
WHAT?!
HA HA HA HA HA HA!!
What's so funny, Yabe?!
AFTER THAT DAY, YURI'S BALD SPOT BEGAN TO HEAL.


Gatcha Gacha
WELCOM


MEANWHILE, INNER-HIRAO SCREAMS.
MUROI!!
YOU DUNCE!!
Dimwit! Bonehead! Moron!


STRIKE THREE!

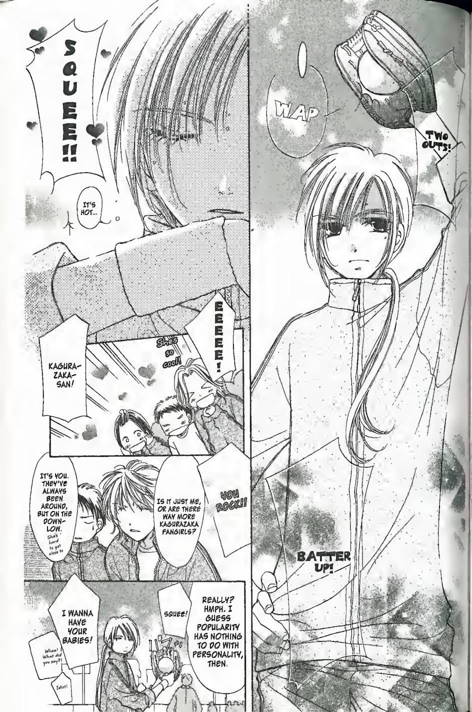
Recommended DVD

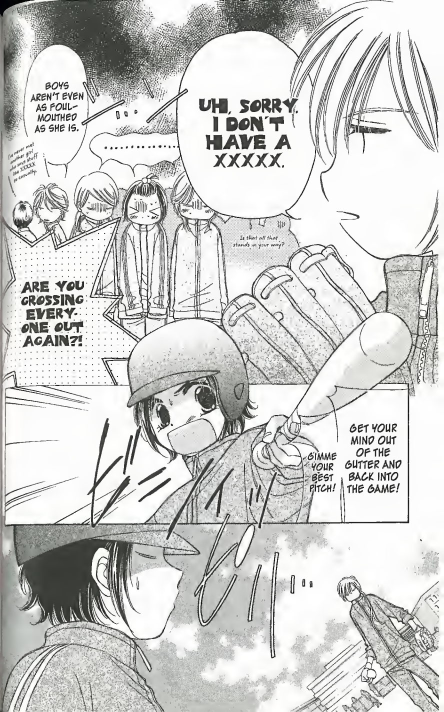
Something's Gotta Give

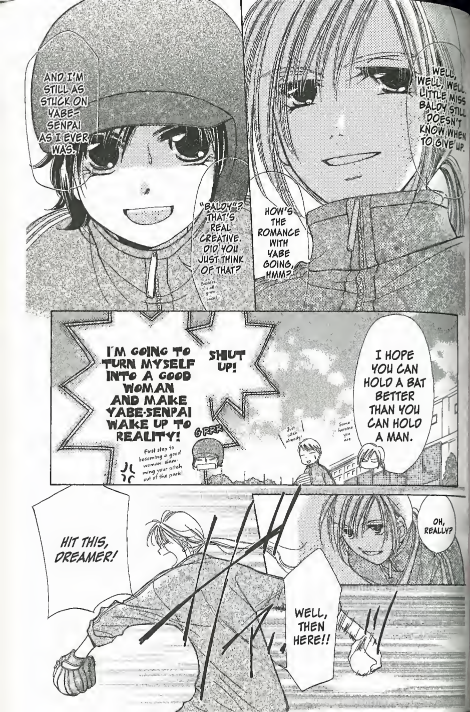
What the--?! Tachibana-san, did you really just recommend your first-ever romantic comedy in this column...?! Yeah, I guess I did...

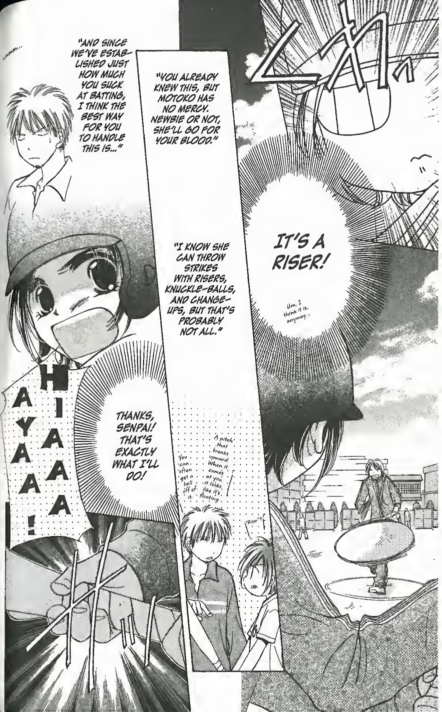
But it's a story about an over-the-hill couple that find love together, so I'm not sure how many of you shojo fans out there would like it. Actually, considering I usually only recommend salty, dense films, you all probably stopped listening long ago...ah, well...

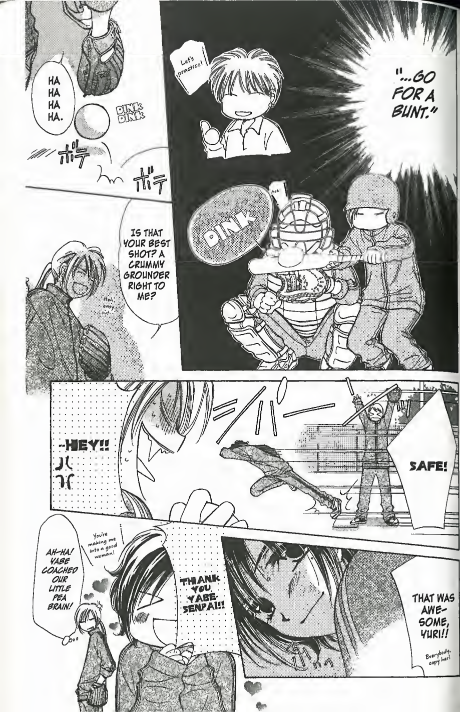
Anyway, back to Something's Gotta Give. I just want to say that, in this movie, Diane Keaton is really cute. Way cuter than you'd think a middle-aged lady could be. She's so open and maidenly, and her smile is absolutely precious. Young and middle-aged men of Japan, try giving up your Lolita leanings and see if you can't find ladies like Diane Keaton to satisfy your cute fetish. I'm sure it'll make your life a lot more entertaining.

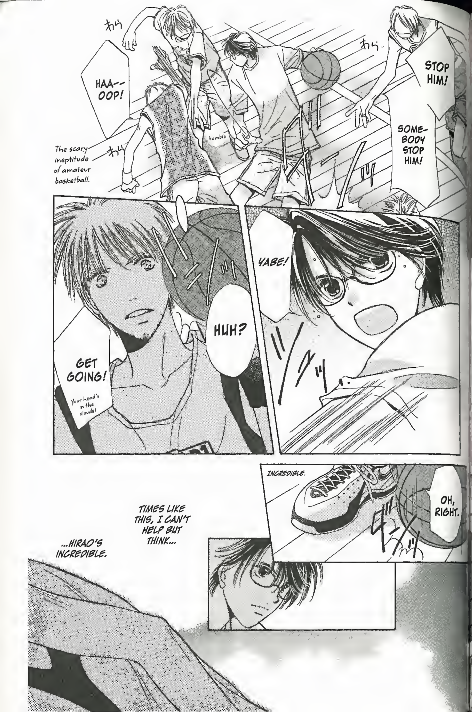

!
WAP
TWO OUTS!
BATTER UP!
SQUEEE!!
IT'S HOT...
EEEEE!
She's so cool!
KAGURAZAKA-SAN!
YOU ROCK!!
IS IT JUST ME, OR ARE THERE WAY MORE KAGURAZAKA FANGIRLS?
IT'S YOU. THEY'VE ALWAYS BEEN AROUND, BUT ON THE DOWN-LOW.
She's hard to get close to
REALLY? HMPH. I GUESS POPULARITY HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH PERSONALITY, THEN.
SQUEE!
I WANNA HAVE YOUR BABIES!
Whoa! What did you say?!
Idiot!

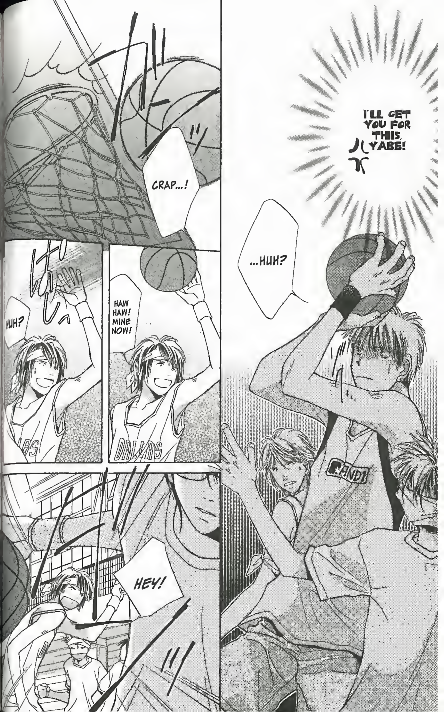

UH, SORRY. I DON'T HAVE A XXXXX.
Is that all that stands in your way?
BOYS AREN'T EVEN AS FOUL-MOUTHED AS SHE IS.
I've never met another girl who says stuff like XXXXX so casually.
....
ARE YOU CROSSING EVERYONE OUT AGAIN?!
GET YOUR MIND OUT OF THE GUTTER AND BACK INTO THE GAME!
GIMME YOUR BEST PITCH!

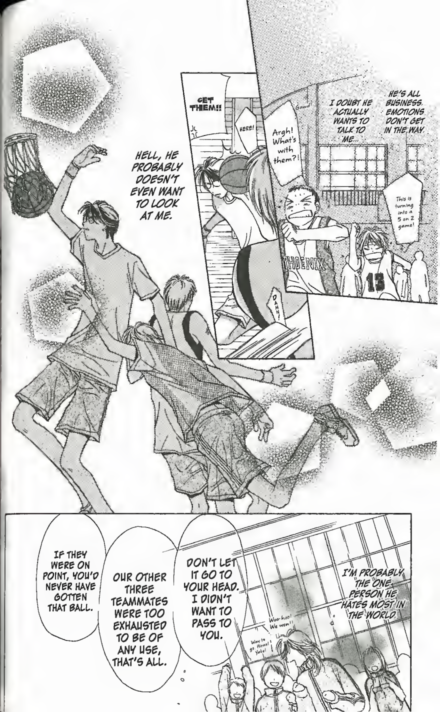

WELL, WELL, WELL. LITTLE MISS BALDY STILL DOESN'T KNOW WHEN TO GIVE UP.
HOW'S THE ROMANCE WITH YABE GOING, HMM?
"BALDY"? THAT'S REAL CREATIVE. DID YOU JUST THINK OF THAT?
Besides, it all grew back!
AND I'M STILL AS STUCK ON YABE-SENPAI AS I EVER WAS.
I HOPE YOU CAN HOLD A BAT BETTER THAN YOU CAN HOLD A MAN.
Some heroine you are
Just pitch already!
SHUT UP!
I'M GOING TO TURN MYSELF INTO A GOOD WOMAN AND MAKE YABE-SENPAI WAKE UP TO REALITY!
GRRR
First step to becoming a good woman slamming your pitch out of the park!
OH, REALLY?
WELL, THEN HERE!!
HIT THIS, DREAMER!

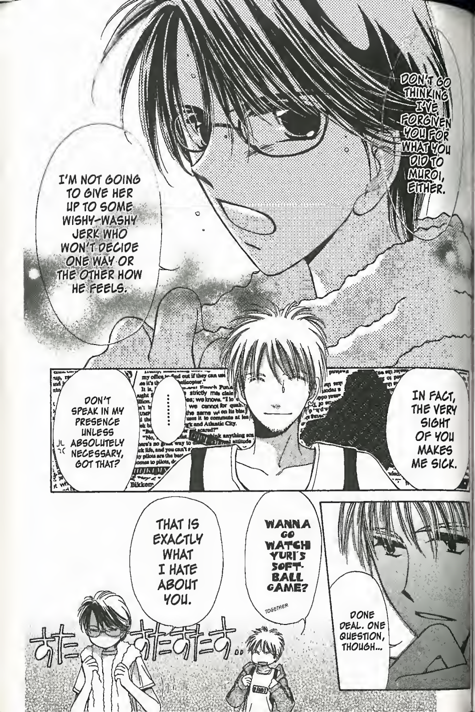

IT'S A RISER!
Um, I think it is, anyway...
"Riser"?
A pitch that breaks upward. When it comes at you, it looks like it's floating.
You can often get a ball off of it.
"I KNOW SHE CAN THROW STRIKES WITH RISERS, KNUCKLE-BALLS, AND CHANGE-UPS, BUT THAT'S PROBABLY NOT ALL."
"YOU ALREADY KNEW THIS, BUT MOTOKO HAS NO MERCY. NEWBIE OR NOT, SHE'LL GO FOR YOUR BLOOD."
"AND SINCE WE'VE ESTABLISHED JUST HOW MUCH YOU SUCK AT BATTING, I THINK THE BEST WAY FOR YOU TO HANDLE THIS IS..."
hmmm...
THANKS, SENPAI! THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I'LL DO!
HIAAAA AYAAA!

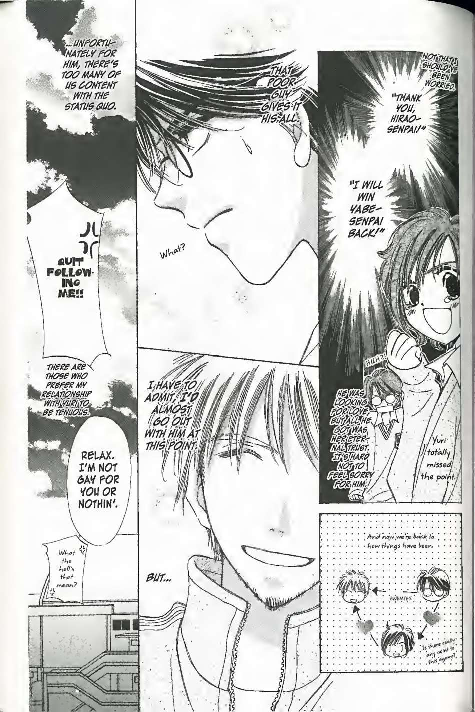

"...GO FOR A BUNT."
Let's practice!
Ack!
DINK
HA HA HA HA.
DINK DINK
ポテ
ポテ
IS THAT YOUR BEST SHOT? A CRUMMY GROUNDER RIGHT TO ME?
Heh, easy out...
SAFE!
--HEY!!
THAT WAS AWESOME, YURI!!
Everybody, copy her!
THANK YOU YABE-SENPAI!!
You're making me into a good woman!
AH-HA! YABE COACHED OUR LITTLE PEA BRAIN!

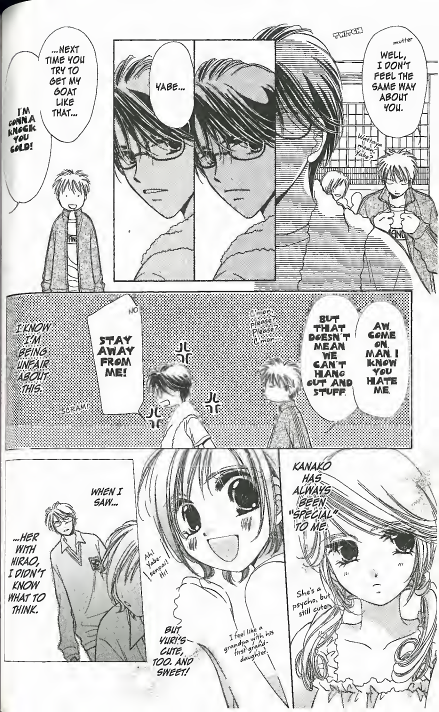

STOP HIM!
SOME-BODY STOP HIM!
HAA-- OOP!
bumble
The scary ineptitude of amateur basketball.
YABE!
HUH?
GET GOING!
Your head's in the clouds!
OH, RIGHT.
INCREDIBLE.
TIMES LIKE THIS, I CAN'T HELP BUT THINK...
...HIRAO'S INCREDIBLE.

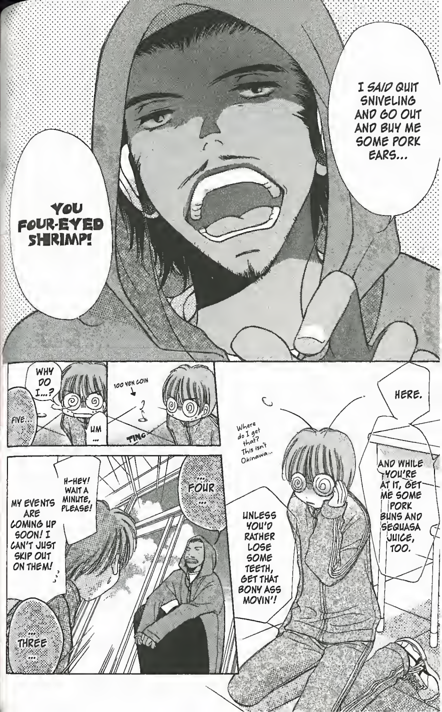

CRAP...!
HUH?
HAW HAW! MINE NOW!
HEY!
...HUH?
I'LL GET YOU FOR THIS, YABE!

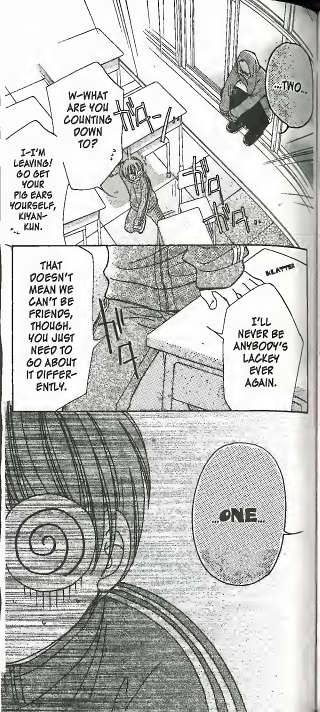

HE'S ALL BUSINESS. EMOTIONS DON'T GET IN THE WAY.
I DOUBT HE ACTUALLY WANTS TO TALK TO ME...
Gawd!
Argh! What's with them?!
This is turning into a 5 on 2 game!
DAMN!
GET THEM!!
HERE!
PHOENIX
13
HELL, HE PROBABLY DOESN'T EVEN WANT TO LOOK AT ME.
I'M PROBABLY THE ONE PERSON HE HATES MOST IN THE WORLD.
Woo-hoo! We won!!
Way to go, Hiraoi! Yabe!
DON'T LET IT GO TO YOUR HEAD. I DIDN'T WANT TO PASS TO YOU.
OUR OTHER THREE TEAMMATES WERE TOO EXHAUSTED TO BE OF ANY USE, THAT'S ALL.
IF THEY WERE ON POINT, YOU'D NEVER HAVE GOTTEN THAT BALL.


DON'T GO THINKING I'VE FORGIVEN YOU FOR WHAT YOU DID TO MUROI, EITHER.
I'M NOT GOING TO GIVE HER UP TO SOME WISHY-WASHY JERK WHO WON'T DECIDE ONE WAY OR THE OTHER HOW HE FEELS.
IN FACT, THE VERY SIGHT OF YOU MAKES ME SICK.
......
DON'T SPEAK IN MY PRESENCE UNLESS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY, GOT THAT?
WANNA GO WATCH YURI'S SOFTBALL GAME? TOGETHER
DONE DEAL. ONE QUESTION, THOUGH...
THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT I HATE ABOUT YOU.
すたっ すたすたすた


"THANK YOU, HIRAO-SENPAI!"
"I WILL WIN YABE-SENPAI BACK!"
NOT THAT I SHOULD'VE BEEN WORRIED.
HUH?!
HE WAS LOOKING FOR LOVE, BUT ALL HE GOT WAS HER ETERNAL TRUST. IT'S HARD NOT TO FEEL SORRY FOR HIM.
Yuri totally missed the point.
THAT POOR GUY GIVES IT HIS ALL.
What?
And now we're back to how things have been.
ENEMIES
Is there really any point to this agony?
I HAVE TO ADMIT, I'D ALMOST GO OUT WITH HIM AT THIS POINT.
BUT...
...UNFORTUNATELY FOR HIM, THERE'S TOO MANY OF US CONTENT WITH THE STATUS QUO.
QUIT FOLLOWING ME!!
THERE ARE THOSE WHO PREFER MY RELATIONSHIP WITH YURI TO BE TENUOUS.
RELAX. I'M NOT GAY FOR YOU OR NOTHIN'.
What the hell's that mean?


TWITCH
mutter
WELL, I DON'T FEEL THE SAME WAY ABOUT YOU.
Wattaya mean, Yabe?
YABE...
...NEXT TIME YOU TRY TO GET MY GOAT LIKE THAT...
I'M GONNA KNOCK YOU COLD!
AW, COME ON, MAN. I KNOW YOU HATE ME.
BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN WE CAN'T HANG OUT AND STUFF.
C'mon, please? Please? C'mon...
STAY AWAY FROM ME!
NO
SCRAM!
I KNOW I'M BEING UNFAIR ABOUT THIS.
KANAKO HAS ALWAYS BEEN "SPECIAL" TO ME.
She's a psycho, but still cute.
WHEN I SAW...
...HER WITH HIRAO, I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO THINK.
Ah! Yabe-senpai! Hi!
BUT YURI'S CUTE, TOO. AND SWEET!
I feel like a grandpa with his first granddaughter.

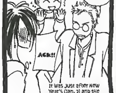

I SAID QUIT SNIVELING AND GO OUT AND BUY ME SOME PORK EARS...
YOU FOUR-EYED SHRIMP!
HERE.
100 YEN COIN
TING
WHY DO I...?
FIVE...
UM ...
AND WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, GET ME SOME PORK BUNS AND SEQUASA JUICE, TOO.
Where do I get that? This isn't Okinawa...
UNLESS YOU'D RATHER LOSE SOME TEETH, GET THAT BONY ASS MOVIN'!
H-HEY! WAIT A MINUTE, PLEASE!
MY EVENTS ARE COMING UP SOON! I CAN'T JUST SKIP OUT ON THEM!
... FOUR ...
... THREE ...


...TWO...
W-WHAT ARE YOU COUNTING DOWN TO?
ガターン
I-I'M LEAVING! GO GET YOUR PIG EARS YOURSELF, KIYAN-KUN.
ガタ
ガタ
KLATTER
I'LL NEVER BE ANYBODY'S LACKEY EVER AGAIN.
ガタ
THAT DOESN'T MEAN WE CAN'T BE FRIENDS, THOUGH. YOU JUST NEED TO GO ABOUT IT DIFFERENTLY.
...ONE...

So, in our last chapter, Hirao's dad made his entrance. Believe it or not, I modeled Tadao after a real-life doctor I've visited. My old family doctor, actually. (The clinic was also something I based on my memories of a real one.)

He was the doctor who helped my mother give birth to me and then looked after me when I was just a little kid. He's a nice old man, if maybe a little goofy. Things are way more complicated now, but back in the day, he donated his time to caring for the poor. (Sorry I can't go into more details here.) He never minded doing house calls, not even in the middle of the night, and he would never prescribe piles of medicine without having a good, solid reason. He even made sure kids were happy and giggly before he tried giving them shots. (Too bad he retired a long time ago.)

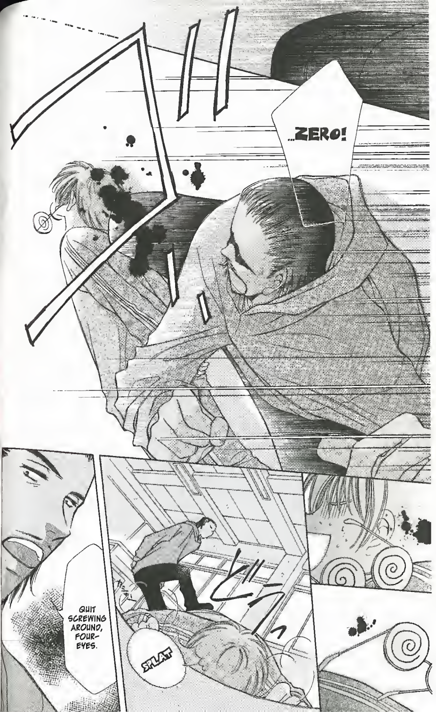
I did go to see him four or five years go, though. I'd caught the flu and he was nice enough to take a look at me, but...

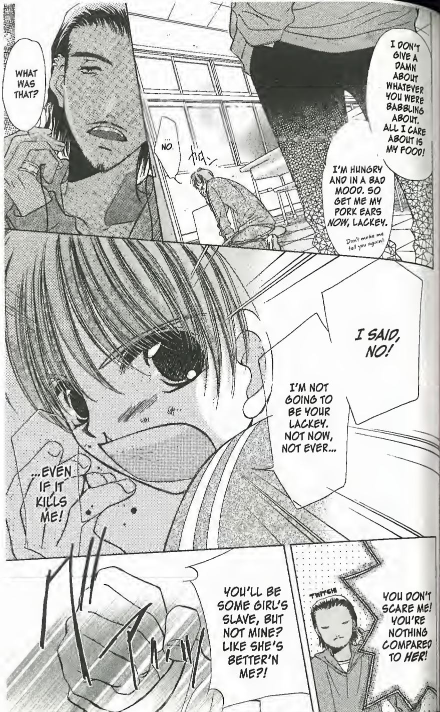

DARLING, YUTAKA GRADUATED YEARS AGO!
His wife (nurse)
SO, WHAT GRADE ARE YOU IN NOW, YUU-CHAN?
ACK!!

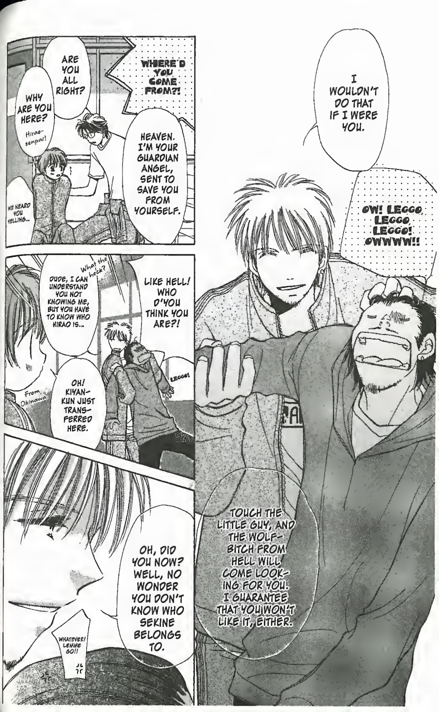
It was just after New Year's (Jan. 3) and the clinic was technically closed, but he still let me in. (He didn't change out of his long-johns, though!)

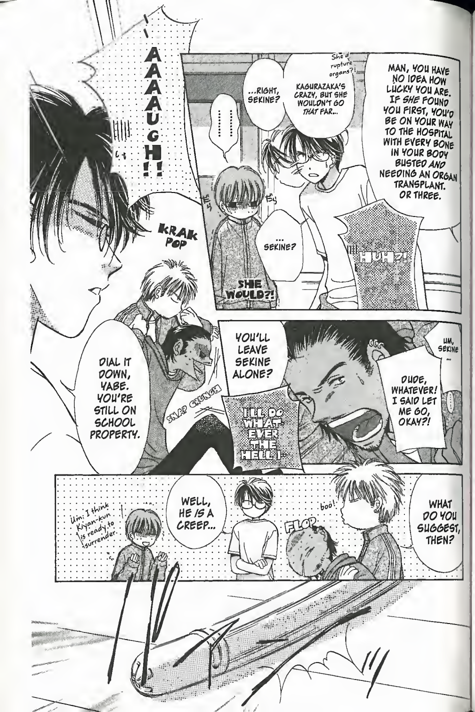
I wound up needing to get a shot right in my butt cheek. (I hope he wasn't starting to go senile on me. .)

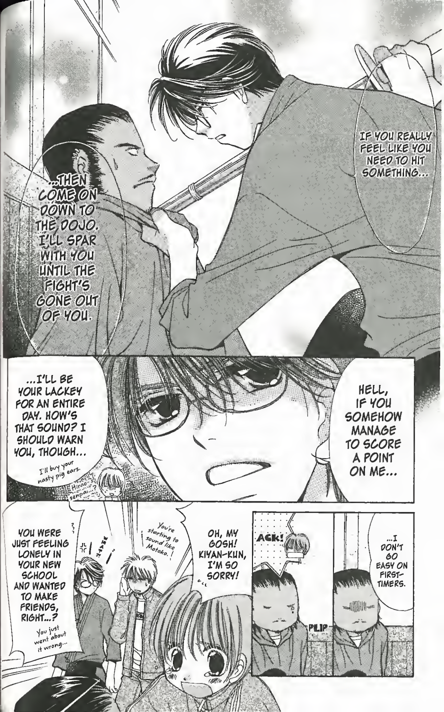
Still, I really hope he has many long years of life left ahead of him. He's a really neat old man. I like him a lot.

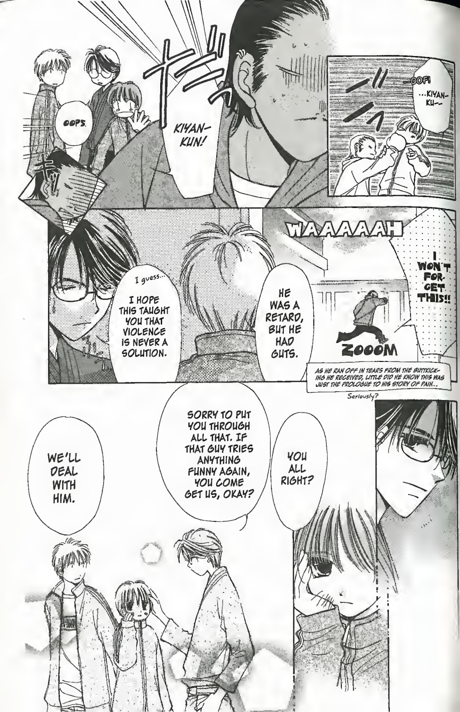

...ZERO!
QUIT SCREWING AROUND, FOUR-EYES.
SPLAT

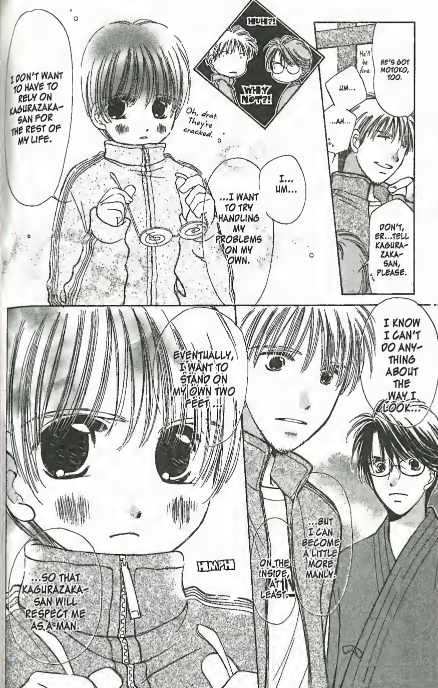

I DON'T GIVE A DAMN ABOUT WHATEVER YOU WERE BABBLING ABOUT. ALL I CARE ABOUT IS MY FOOD!
I'M HUNGRY AND IN A BAD MOOD. SO GET ME MY PORK EARS NOW, LACKEY.
Don't make me tell you again!
... NO.
WHAT WAS THAT?
I SAID, NO!
I'M NOT GOING TO BE YOUR LACKEY. NOT NOW, NOT EVER...
...EVEN IF IT KILLS ME!
YOU DON'T SCARE ME! YOU'RE NOTHING COMPARED TO HER!
TWITCH
YOU'LL BE SOME GIRL'S SLAVE, BUT NOT MINE? LIKE SHE'S BETTER'N ME?!

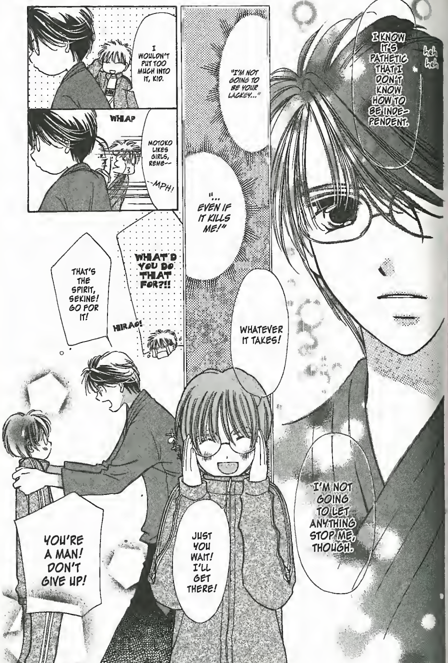

I WOULDN'T DO THAT IF I WERE YOU.
OW! LEGGO, LEGGO, LEGGO! OWWWW!!
TOUCH THE LITTLE GUY, AND THE WOLF-BITCH FROM HELL WILL COME LOOKING FOR YOU. I GUARANTEE THAT YOU WON'T LIKE IT, EITHER.
WHERE'D YOU COME FROM?!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
WHY ARE YOU HERE?
Hirao-senpai!
HEAVEN. I'M YOUR GUARDIAN ANGEL, SENT TO SAVE YOU FROM YOURSELF.
WE HEARD YOU YELLING...
LIKE HELL! WHO D'YOU THINK YOU ARE?!
What the heck?
DUDE, I CAN UNDERSTAND YOU NOT KNOWING ME, BUT YOU HAVE TO KNOW WHO HIRAO IS...
LEGGO!
OH! KIYAN-KUN JUST TRANSFERRED HERE.
From Okinawa.
OH, DID YOU NOW? WELL, NO WONDER YOU DON'T KNOW WHO SEKINE BELONGS TO.
WHATEVER! LEMME GO!!

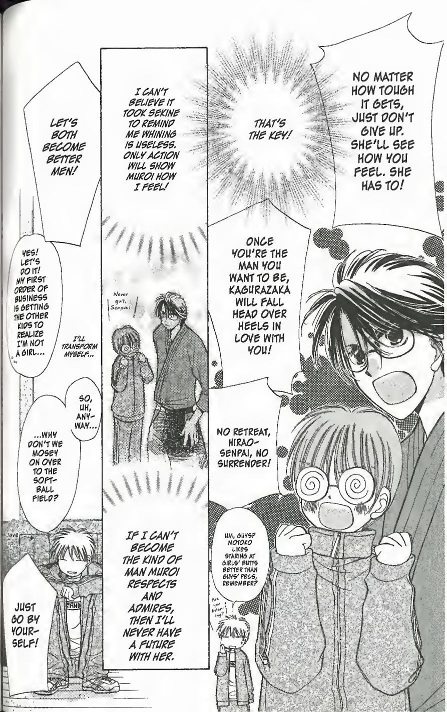

MAN, YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW LUCKY YOU ARE. IF SHE FOUND YOU FIRST, YOU'D BE ON YOUR WAY TO THE HOSPITAL WITH EVERY BONE IN YOUR BODY BUSTED AND NEEDING AN ORGAN TRANSPLANT. OR THREE.
She'd rupture organs?!
KAGURAZAKA'S CRAZY, BUT SHE WOULDN'T GO THAT FAR...
...RIGHT, SEKINE?
......
HUH?!
...SEKINE?
SHE WOULD?!
UM, SEKINE...
YOU'LL LEAVE SEKINE ALONE?
DUDE, WHATEVER! I SAID LET ME GO, OKAY?!
...
I'LL DO WHATEVER THE HELL I-
AAAAUGH!!
KRAK POP
SNAP CRUNCH
DIAL IT DOWN, YABE. YOU'RE STILL ON SCHOOL PROPERTY.
WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST, THEN?
boo!
FLOP
WELL, HE IS A CREEP...
Um: I think Kiyan-kun is ready to surrender.

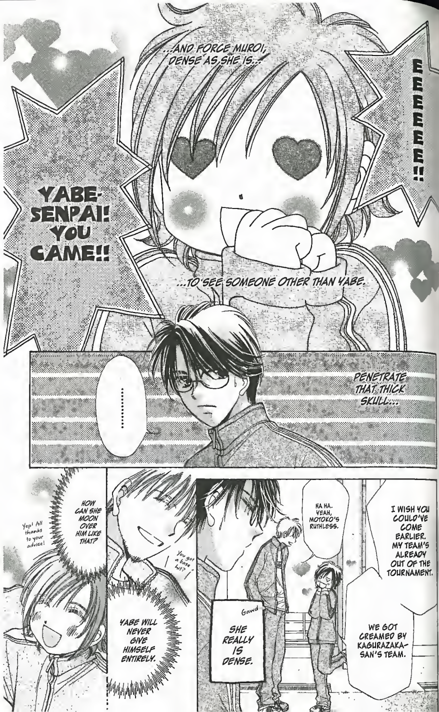

IF YOU REALLY FEEL LIKE YOU NEED TO HIT SOMETHING...
...THEN COME ON DOWN TO THE DOJO. I'LL SPAR WITH YOU UNTIL THE FIGHT'S GONE OUT OF YOU.
HELL, IF YOU SOMEHOW MANAGE TO SCORE A POINT ON ME...
...I'LL BE YOUR LACKEY FOR AN ENTIRE DAY. HOW'S THAT SOUND? I SHOULD WARN YOU, THOUGH...
I'll buy your nasty pig ears.
Hirai-senpai...?
...I DON'T GO EASY ON FIRST-TIMERS.
ACK!
PLIP
OH, MY GOSH! KIYAN-KUN, I'M SO SORRY!
You're starting to sound like Motoko.
YOU WERE JUST FEELING LONELY IN YOUR NEW SCHOOL AND WANTED TO MAKE FRIENDS, RIGHT...?
You just went about it wrong...

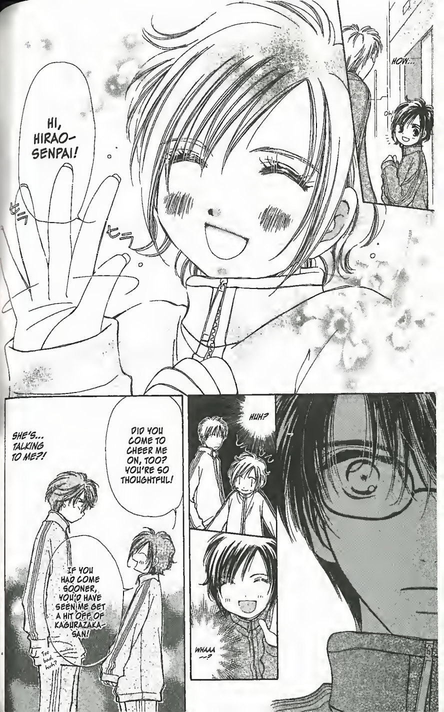

...OOF!
...KIYAN-KU--
KIYAN-KUN!
OOPS.
WAAAAAH
I WON'T FORGET THIS!!
ZOOOM
HE WAS A RETARD, BUT HE HAD GUTS.
I HOPE THIS TAUGHT YOU THAT VIOLENCE IS NEVER A SOLUTION.
I guess...
AS HE RAN OFF IN TEARS FROM THE BUTTKICKING HE RECEIVED, LITTLE DID HE KNOW THIS WAS JUST THE PROLOGUE TO HIS STORY OF PAIN...
Seriously?
YOU ALL RIGHT?
SORRY TO PUT YOU THROUGH ALL THAT. IF THAT GUY TRIES ANYTHING FUNNY AGAIN, YOU COME GET US, OKAY?
WE'LL DEAL WITH HIM.

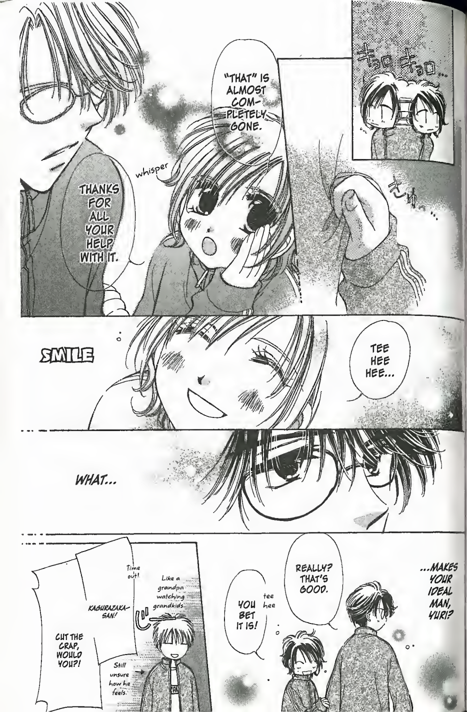

HE'S GOT MOTOKO, TOO.
He'll be fine.
UM...
...AH...
DON'T, ER...TELL KAGURAZAKA-SAN, PLEASE.
HUH?!
WHY NOT?!
I... UM...
...I WANT TO TRY HANDLING MY PROBLEMS ON MY OWN.
Oh, drat. They're cracked.
I DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO RELY ON KAGURAZAKA-SAN FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.
I KNOW I CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT THE WAY I LOOK...
...BUT I CAN BECOME A LITTLE MORE MANLY.
ON THE INSIDE, AT LEAST.
EVENTUALLY, I WANT TO STAND ON MY OWN TWO FEET...
HMPH
...SO THAT KAGURAZAKA-SAN WILL RESPECT ME AS A MAN.

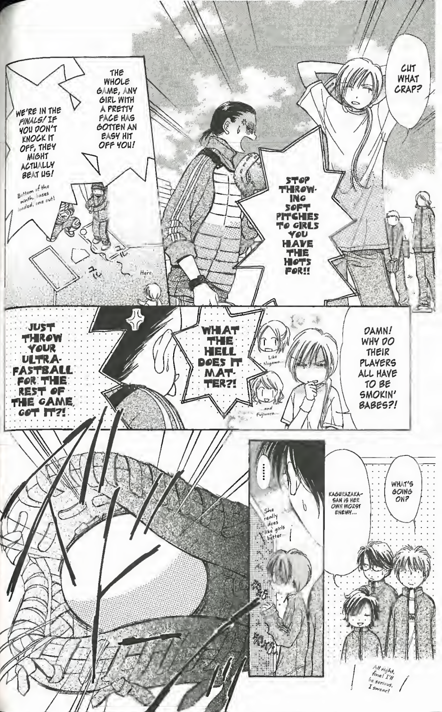

I KNOW IT'S PATHETIC THAT I DON'T KNOW HOW TO BE INDEPENDENT.
heh heh
"I'M NOT GOING TO BE YOUR LACKEY..."
"...EVEN IF IT KILLS ME!"
I'M NOT GOING TO LET ANYTHING STOP ME, THOUGH.
WHATEVER IT TAKES!
I WOULDN'T PUT TOO MUCH INTO IT, KID.
WHAP
MOTOKO LIKES GIRLS, REME--
--MPH!
WHAT'D YOU DO THAT FOR?!!
HIRAO!
THAT'S THE SPIRIT, SEKINE! GO FOR IT!
YOU'RE A MAN! DON'T GIVE UP!
JUST YOU WAIT! I'LL GET THERE!

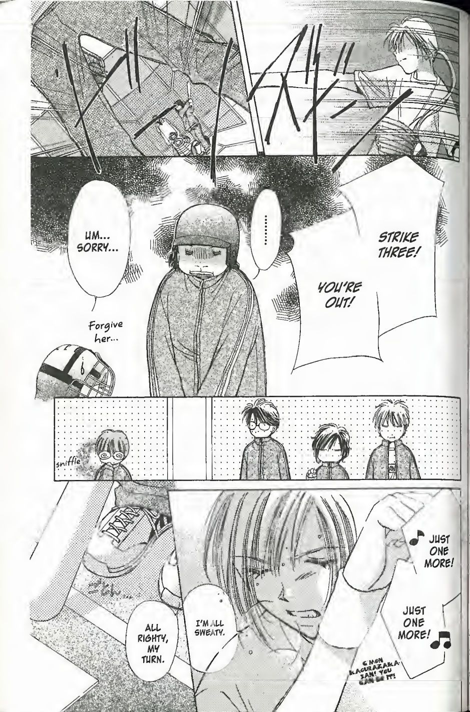

NO MATTER HOW TOUGH IT GETS, JUST DON'T GIVE UP. SHE'LL SEE HOW YOU FEEL. SHE HAS TO!
THAT'S THE KEY!
ONCE YOU'RE THE MAN YOU WANT TO BE, KAGURAZAKA WILL FALL HEAD OVER HEELS IN LOVE WITH YOU!
NO RETREAT, HIRAO-SENPAI, NO SURRENDER!
UM, GUYS? MOTOKO LIKES STARING AT GIRLS' BUTTS BETTER THAN GUYS' PECS, REMEMBER?
Are you listening?
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT TOOK SEKINE TO REMIND ME WHINING IS USELESS. ONLY ACTION WILL SHOW MUROI HOW I FEEL!
LET'S BOTH BECOME BETTER MEN!
YES! LET'S DO IT! MY FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS IS GETTING THE OTHER KIDS TO REALIZE I'M NOT A GIRL...
I'LL TRANSFORM MYSELF...
Never quit, Senpai!
SO, UH, ANYWAY...
...WHY DON'T WE MOSEY ON OVER TO THE SOFTBALL FIELD?
IF I CAN'T BECOME THE KIND OF MAN MUROI RESPECTS AND ADMIRES, THEN I'LL NEVER HAVE A FUTURE WITH HER.
JUST GO BY YOURSELF!

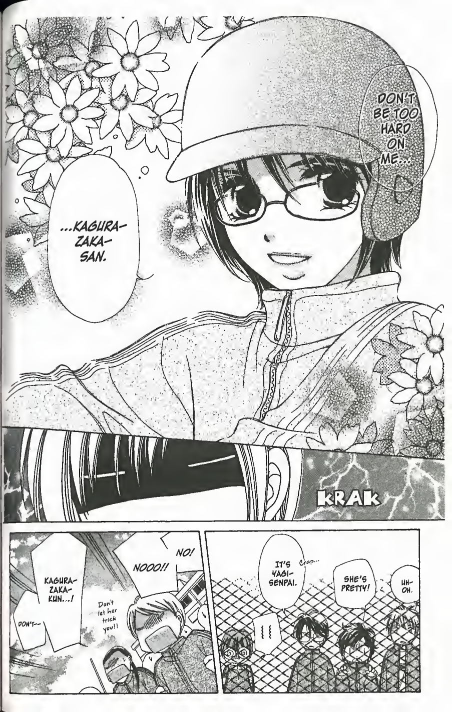

...AND FORCE MUROI, DENSE AS SHE IS...
EEEEEEE!!
YABE-SENPAI! YOU CAME!!
...TO SEE SOMEONE OTHER THAN YABE.
PENETRATE THAT THICK SKULL...
....
I WISH YOU COULD'VE COME EARLIER. MY TEAM'S ALREADY OUT OF THE TOURNAMENT.
HA HA. YEAH, MOTOKO'S RUTHLESS.
WE GOT CREAMED BY KAGURAZAKA-SAN'S TEAM.
SHE REALLY IS DENSE.
Gawd
HOW CAN SHE MOON OVER HIM LIKE THAT?
You got a base hit?
Yep! All thanks to your advice!
YABE WILL NEVER GIVE HIMSELF ENTIRELY.

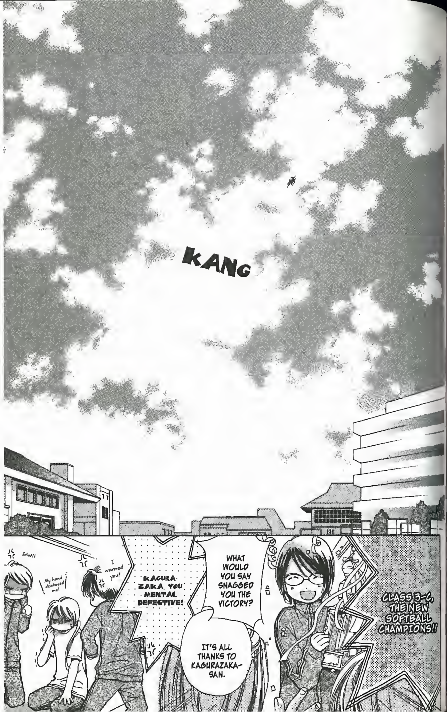

HOW...
Oh!
HI, HIRAO-SENPAI!
ヒラ ヒラ
HUH?
WHAAA --?
DID YOU COME TO CHEER ME ON, TOO? YOU'RE SO THOUGHTFUL!
SHE'S... TALKING TO ME?!
IF YOU HAD COME SOONER, YOU'D HAVE SEEN ME GET A HIT OFF OF KAGURAZAKA-SAN!
Too bad, huh?

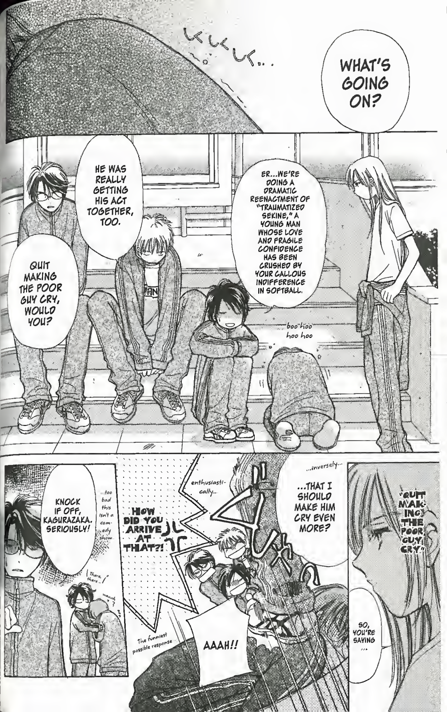

キョロキョロ...
"THAT" IS ALMOST COMPLETELY GONE.
whisper
THANKS FOR ALL YOUR HELP WITH IT.
SMILE
TEE HEE HEE...
WHAT...
...MAKES YOUR IDEAL MAN, YURI?
REALLY? THAT'S GOOD.
tee hee
YOU BET IT IS!
KAGURAZAKA-SAN!
Time out!
Like a grandpa watching grandkids.
CUT THE CRAP, WOULD YOU?!
Still unsure how he feels.

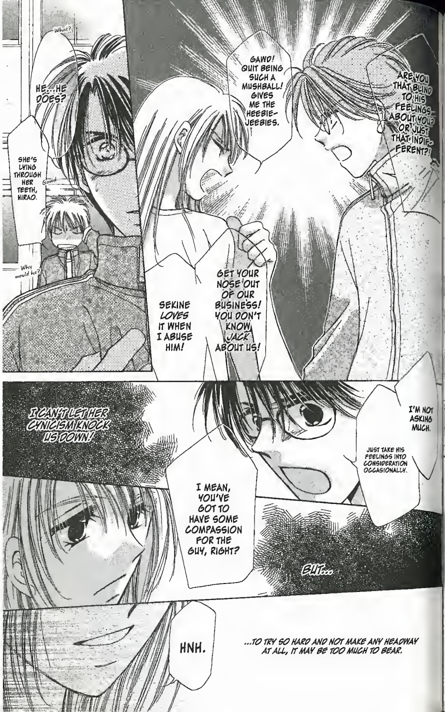

CUT WHAT CRAP?
THE WHOLE GAME, ANY GIRL WITH A PRETTY FACE HAS GOTTEN AN EASY HIT OFF YOU!
WE'RE IN THE FINALS! IF YOU DON'T KNOCK IT OFF, THEY MIGHT ACTUALLY BEAT US!
Bottom of the ninth, bases loaded, one out!
STOP THROWING SOFT PITCHES TO GIRLS YOU HAVE THE HOTS FOR!!
Here.
DAMN! WHY DO THEIR PLAYERS ALL HAVE TO BE SMOKIN' BABES?!
Like Nogawa...
...and Fujiwara...
WHAT THE HELL DOES IT MATTER?!
JUST THROW YOUR ULTRA-FASTBALL FOR THE REST OF THE GAME, GOT IT?!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
KAGURAZAKA-SAN IS HER OWN WORST ENEMY...
All right, fine! I'll be serious, I swear!
....
She really does like girls better

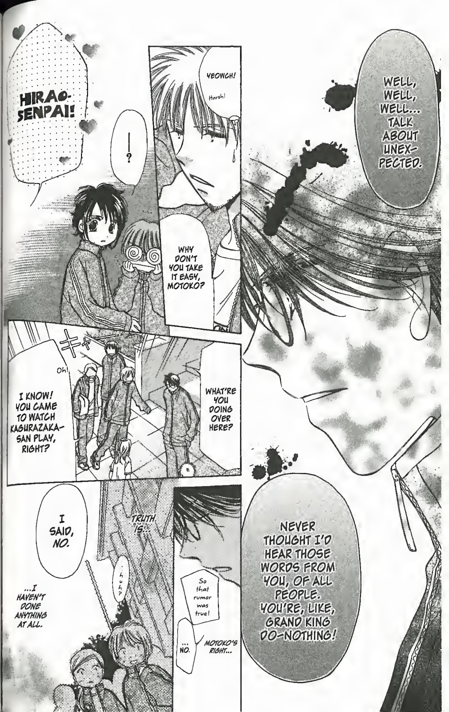

STRIKE THREE!
YOU'RE OUT!
....
UM... SORRY...
Forgive her...
sniffle
JUST ONE MORE!
JUST ONE MORE!
C'MON KAGURAZAKA-SAN! YOU CAN DO IT!
I'M ALL SWEATY.
ALL RIGHTY, MY TURN.

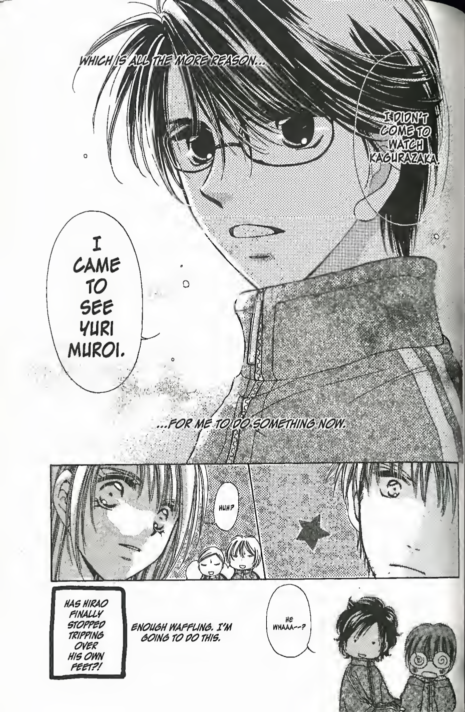

DON'T BE TOO HARD ON ME...
...KAGURAZAKA-SAN.
KRAK
UH-OH.
SHE'S PRETTY!
Crap...
IT'S YAGI-SENPAI.
NO!
NOOO!!
KAGURAZAKA-KUN...!
Don't let her trick you!!
DON'T--

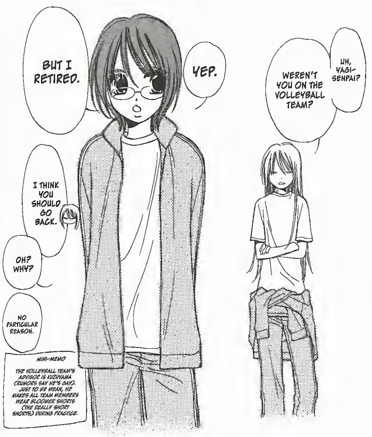

KANG
CLASS 3-6, THE NEW SOFTBALL CHAMPIONS!!
WHAT WOULD YOU SAY SNAGGED YOU THE VICTORY?
IT'S ALL THANKS TO KAGURAZAKA-SAN.
KAGURAZAKA, YOU MENTAL DEFECTIVE!
I warned you!
My hand disobeyed me!
Idiot!!


しくしく...
WHAT'S GOING ON?
ER...WE'RE DOING A DRAMATIC REENACTMENT OF "TRAUMATIZED SEKINE," A YOUNG MAN WHOSE LOVE AND FRAGILE CONFIDENCE HAS BEEN CRUSHED BY YOUR CALLOUS INDIFFERENCE IN SOFTBALL.
boo hoo hoo hoo
HE WAS REALLY GETTING HIS ACT TOGETHER, TOO.
QUIT MAKING THE POOR GUY CRY, WOULD YOU?
SO, YOU'RE SAYING...
"QUIT MAKING THE POOR GUY CRY"
...inversely...
...THAT I SHOULD MAKE HIM CRY EVEN MORE?
enthusiastically..
AAAH!!
HOW DID YOU ARRIVE AT THAT?!
The funniest possible response
KNOCK IF OFF, KAGURAZAKA. SERIOUSLY!
too bad this isn't a comedy show
There, there..
waaah

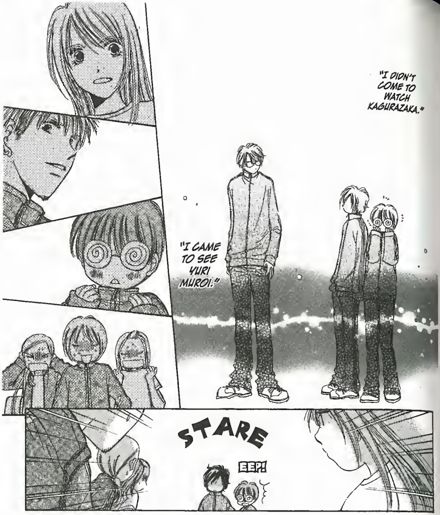

ARE YOU THAT BLIND TO HIS FEELINGS ABOUT YOU OR JUST THAT INDIFFERENT?!
GAWD! QUIT BEING SUCH A MUSHBALL! GIVES ME THE HEEBIE-JEEBIES.
GET YOUR NOSE OUT OF OUR BUSINESS! YOU DON'T KNOW JACK ABOUT US!
SEKINE LOVES IT WHEN I ABUSE HIM!
What?
HE...HE DOES?
SHE'S LYING THROUGH HER TEETH, HIRAO.
Gawd
Why would he?
I'M NOT ASKING MUCH.
JUST TAKE HIS FEELINGS INTO CONSIDERATION OCCASIONALLY.
I MEAN, YOU'VE GOT TO HAVE SOME COMPASSION FOR THE GUY, RIGHT?
I CAN'T LET HER CYNICISM KNOCK US DOWN!
BUT...
...TO TRY SO HARD AND NOT MAKE ANY HEADWAY AT ALL, IT MAY BE TOO MUCH TO BEAR.
HNH.


WELL, WELL, WELL... TALK ABOUT UNEXPECTED.
NEVER THOUGHT I'D HEAR THOSE WORDS FROM YOU, OF ALL PEOPLE. YOU'RE, LIKE, GRAND KING DO-NOTHING!
YEOWCH!
Harsh!
WHY DON'T YOU TAKE IT EASY, MOTOKO?
HIRAO-SENPAI!
!?
WHAT'RE YOU DOING OVER HERE?
Oh!
I KNOW! YOU CAME TO WATCH KAGURAZAKA-SAN PLAY, RIGHT?
TRUTH IS...
I SAID, NO.
...I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING AT ALL.
huh?
So that rumor was true!
...NO.
MOTOKO'S RIGHT...


I DIDN'T COME TO WATCH KAGURAZAKA.
WHICH IS ALL THE MORE REASON...
I CAME TO SEE YURI MUROI.
...FOR ME TO DO SOMETHING NOW.
HUH?
HE WHAAAA--?
ENOUGH WAFFLING. I'M GOING TO DO THIS.
HAS HIRAO FINALLY STOPPED TRIPPING OVER HIS OWN FEET?!


UH, YAGI-SENPAI?
WEREN'T YOU ON THE VOLLEYBALL TEAM?
YEP.
BUT I RETIRED.
I THINK YOU SHOULD GO BACK.
OH? WHY?
NO PARTICULAR REASON.
MINI-MEMO
THE VOLLEYBALL TEAM'S ADVISOR IS KUZUYAMA (RUMORS SAY HE'S GAY). JUST TO BE MEAN, HE MAKES ALL TEAM MEMBERS WEAR BLOOMER SHORTS (THE REALLY SHORT SHORTS) DURING PRACTICE.

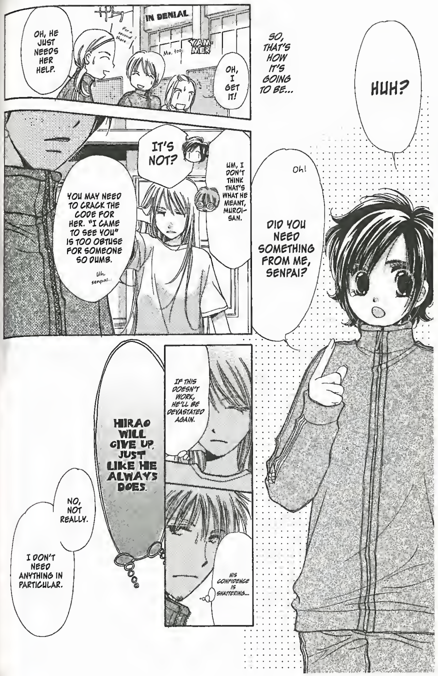
Gatcha Gacha

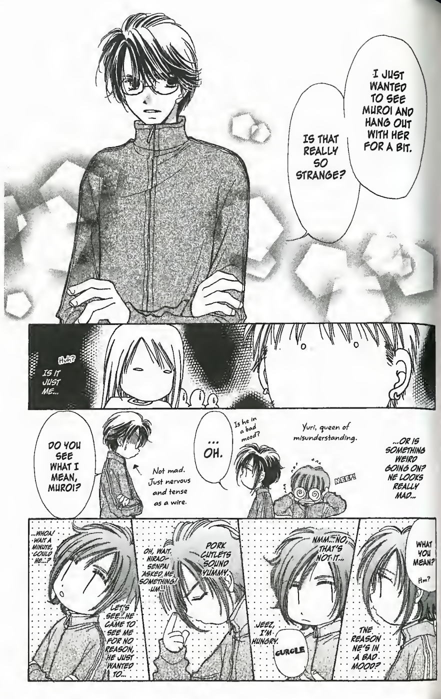

"I DIDN'T COME TO WATCH KAGURAZAKA."
"I CAME TO SEE YURI MUROI."
STARE
EEP!

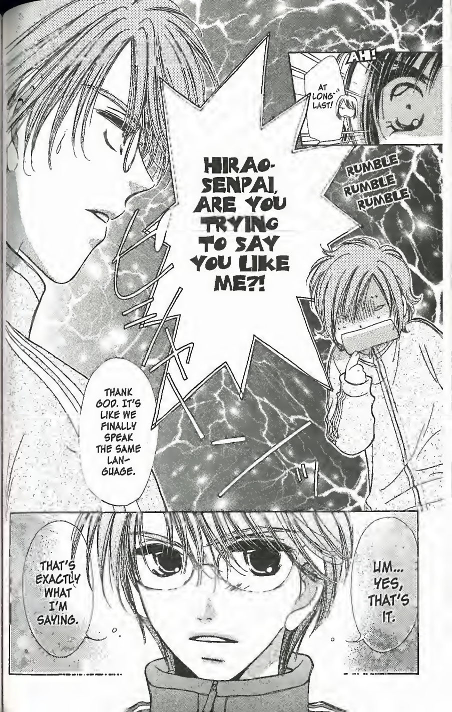
Recommended DVD

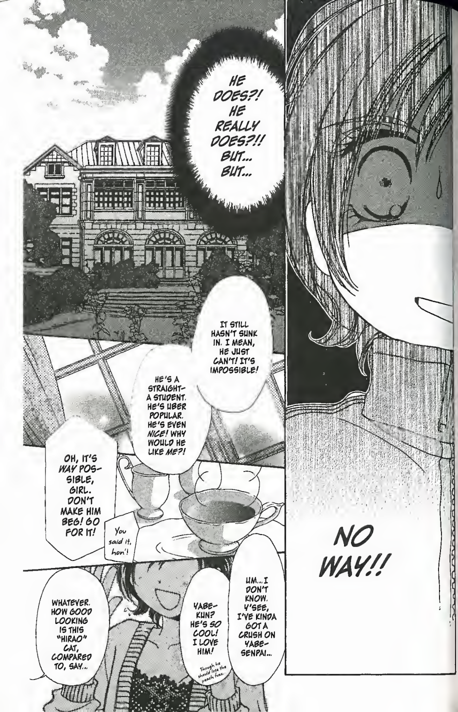
Backdrop Del mio papa

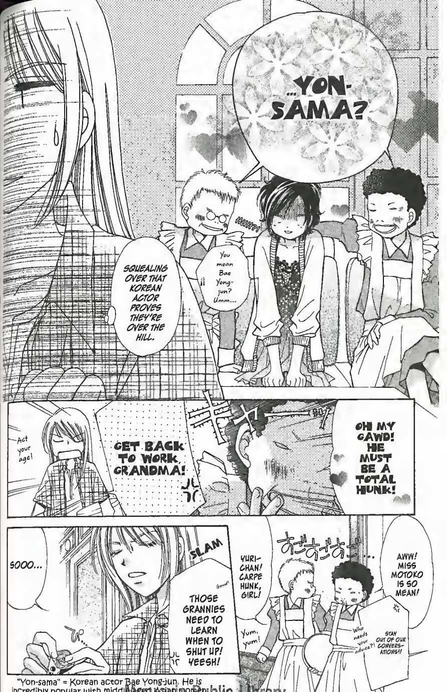
I'm recommending this because Ramo Nakajima-san was one of my absolute favorite actors ever. I wish he could have lived to make us laugh for many more years.


HUH?
Oh!
DID YOU NEED SOMETHING FROM ME, SENPAI?
SO, THAT'S HOW IT'S GOING TO BE...
IN DENIAL
OH, I GET IT!
Me, too.
YAMMER
For a second there
OH, HE JUST NEEDS HER HELP.
UM, I DON'T THINK THAT'S WHAT HE MEANT, MUROI-SAN.
IT'S NOT?
YOU MAY NEED TO CRACK THE CODE FOR HER. "I CAME TO SEE YOU" IS TOO OBTUSE FOR SOMEONE SO DUMB.
Uh, senpai.
IF THIS DOESN'T WORK, HE'LL BE DEVASTATED AGAIN.
HIRAO WILL GIVE UP, JUST LIKE HE ALWAYS DOES.
NO, NOT REALLY.
I DON'T NEED ANYTHING IN PARTICULAR.
HIS CONFIDENCE IS SHATTERING...


I JUST WANTED TO SEE MUROI AND HANG OUT WITH HER FOR A BIT.
IS THAT REALLY SO STRANGE?
Huh?
IS IT JUST ME...
...OR IS SOMETHING WEIRD GOING ON? HE LOOKS REALLY MAD...
Yuri, queen of misunderstanding.
MEEP!
Is he in a bad mood?
...OH.
Not mad. Just nervous and tense as a wire.
DO YOU SEE WHAT I MEAN, MUROI?
WHAT YOU MEAN?
Hm?
THE REASON HE'S IN A BAD MOOD?
NMM...NO, THAT'S NOT IT...
JEEZ, I'M HUNGRY.
GURGLE
PORK CUTLETS SOUND YUMMY.
OH, WAIT. HIRAO-SENPAI ASKED ME SOMETHING! UM...
...WHOA! WAIT A MINUTE, COULD HE...?
LET'S SEE...HE CAME TO SEE ME FOR NO REASON, HE JUST WANTED TO...


AH!
AT LONG LAST!
HIRAO-SENPAI, ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY YOU LIKE ME?!
RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE
THANK GOD. IT'S LIKE WE FINALLY SPEAK THE SAME LANGUAGE.
UM... YES, THAT'S IT.
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I'M SAYING.


NO WAY!!
HE DOES?! HE REALLY DOES?!! BUT... BUT...
IT STILL HASN'T SUNK IN. I MEAN, HE JUST CAN'T! IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
HE'S A STRAIGHT-A STUDENT. HE'S UBER POPULAR. HE'S EVEN *NICE!* WHY WOULD HE LIKE *ME?!*
OH, IT'S *WAY* POSSIBLE, GIRL. DON'T MAKE HIM BEG! GO FOR IT!
You said it, hon'!
UM...I DON'T KNOW. Y'SEE, I'VE KINDA GOT A CRUSH ON YABE-SENPAI...
YABE-KUN? HE'S SO COOL! I LOVE HIM!
Though he should lose the peach fuzz.
WHATEVER. HOW GOOD LOOKING IS THIS "HIRAO" CAT, COMPARED TO, SAY...


...YON-SAMA?
HUH?!
You mean Bae Yong-jun? Umm....
SQUEALING OVER THAT KOREAN ACTOR PROVES THEY'RE OVER THE HILL.
OH MY GAWD! HE MUST BE A TOTAL HUNK!
GET BACK TO WORK, GRANDMA!
Act your age!
AWW! MISS MOTOKO IS SO MEAN!
STAY OUT OF OUR CONVERSATIONS!!
Who needs your advice?!
Yum, yum!
YURI-CHAN! CARPE HUNK, GIRL!
SLAM
SOOO...
Gawd!
THOSE GRANNIES NEED TO LEARN WHEN TO SHUT UP! YEESH!

"Yon-sama" = Korean actor Bae Yong-jun. He is incredibly popular with middle-aged Asian women.

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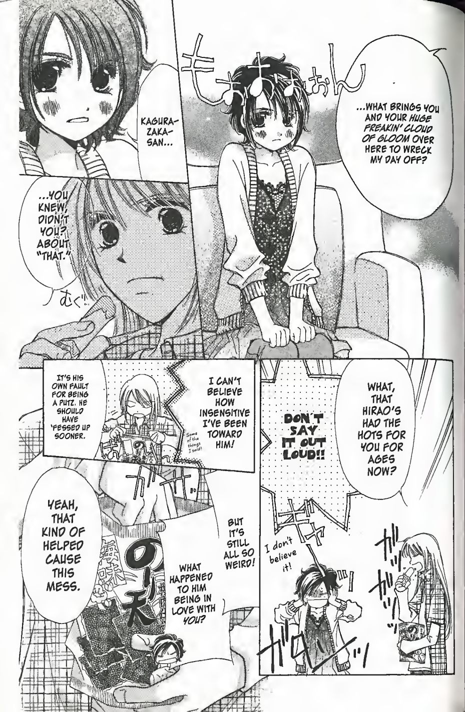
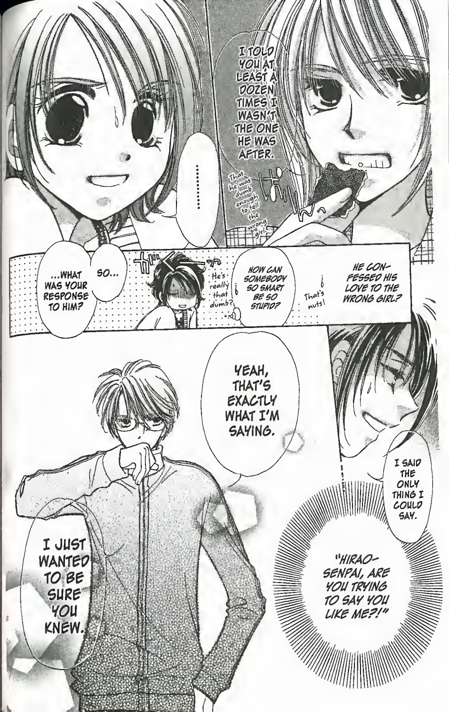
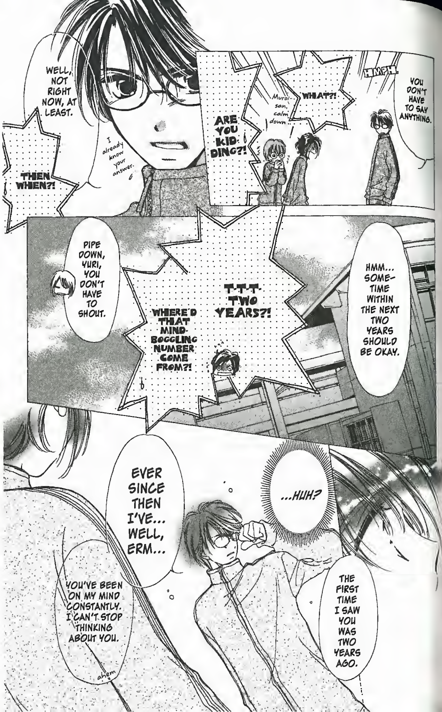
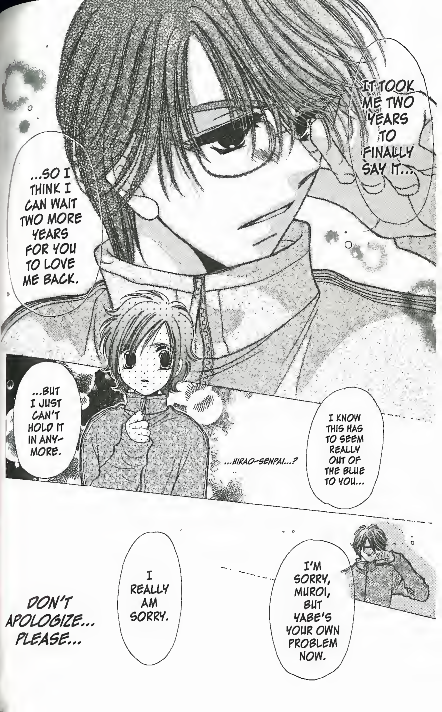
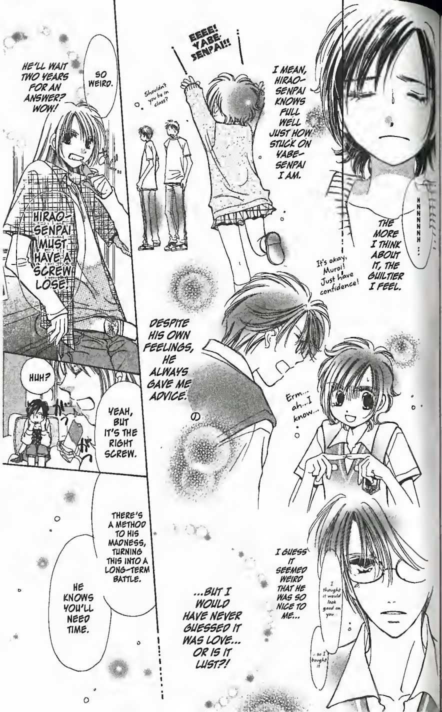
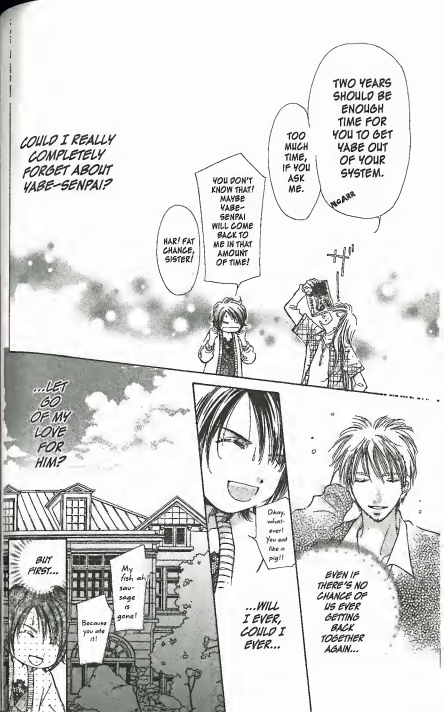

...WHAT BRINGS YOU AND YOUR HUGE FREAKIN' CLOUD OF GLOOM OVER HERE TO WRECK MY DAY OFF?
KAGURA-ZAKA-SAN...
...YOU KNEW, DIDN'T YOU!? ABOUT "THAT."
むぐ…
WHAT, THAT HIRAO'S HAD THE HOTS FOR YOU FOR AGES NOW?
DON'T SAY IT OUT LOUD!!
I don't believe it!
I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW INSENSITIVE I'VE BEEN TOWARD HIM!
IT'S HIS OWN FAULT FOR BEING A PUTZ. HE SHOULD HAVE 'FESSED UP SOONER.
Some of the things I said!
BUT IT'S STILL ALL SO WEIRD!
WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM BEING IN LOVE WITH YOU?
YEAH, THAT KIND OF HELPED CAUSE THIS MESS.

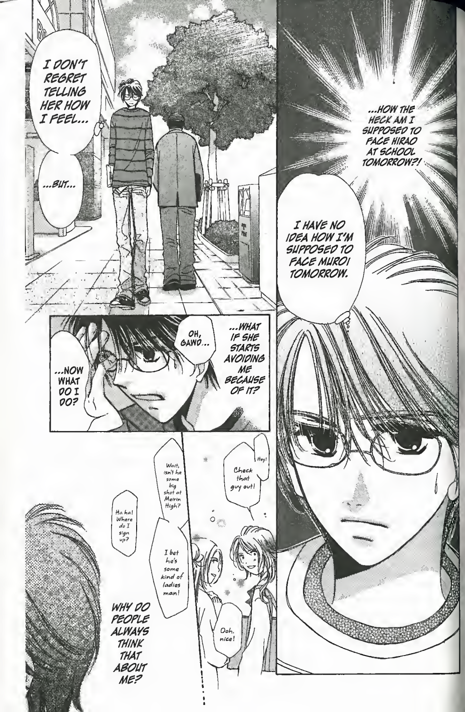

I TOLD YOU AT LEAST A DOZEN TIMES I WASN'T THE ONE HE WAS AFTER.
That he was dumb enough to tell the wrong girl
......
HE CONFESSED HIS LOVE TO THE WRONG GIRL?
That's nuts!
HOW CAN SOMEBODY SO SMART BE SO STUPID?
He's really that dumb?
SO...
...WHAT WAS YOUR RESPONSE TO HIM?
I SAID THE ONLY THING I COULD SAY.
"HIRAO-SENPAI, ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY YOU LIKE ME?!"
YEAH, THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I'M SAYING.
I JUST WANTED TO BE SURE YOU KNEW.

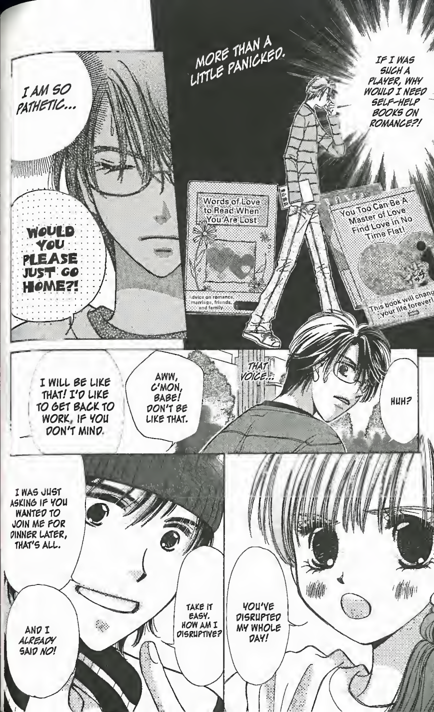

HMPH.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY ANYTHING.
WHAT?!
Muroi-san, calm down...
ARE YOU KIDDING?!
I already know your answer.
WELL, NOT RIGHT NOW, AT LEAST.
THEN WHEN?!
HMM... SOMETIME WITHIN THE NEXT TWO YEARS SHOULD BE OKAY.
T-T-T-TWO YEARS?!
WHERE'D THAT MIND-BOGGLING NUMBER COME FROM?!
PIPE DOWN, YURI, YOU DON'T HAVE TO SHOUT.
THE FIRST TIME I SAW YOU WAS TWO YEARS AGO.
...HUH?
EVER SINCE THEN I'VE... WELL, ERM...
YOU'VE BEEN ON MY MIND CONSTANTLY. I CAN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT YOU.
ahem

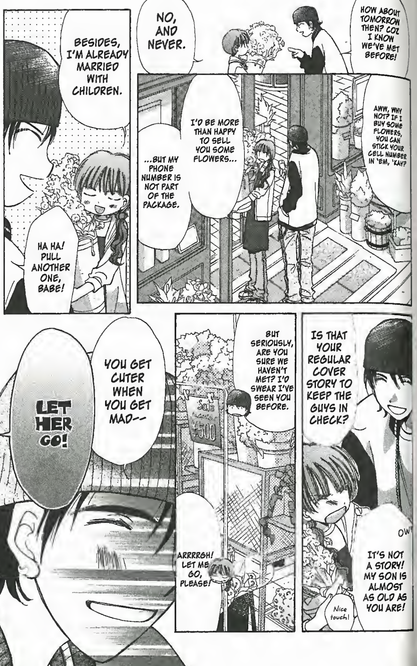

IT TOOK ME TWO YEARS TO FINALLY SAY IT...
...SO I THINK I CAN WAIT TWO MORE YEARS FOR YOU TO LOVE ME BACK.
I KNOW THIS HAS TO SEEM REALLY OUT OF THE BLUE TO YOU...
...HIRAO-SENPAI...?
...BUT I JUST CAN'T HOLD IT IN ANYMORE.
I'M SORRY, MUROI, BUT YABE'S YOUR OWN PROBLEM NOW.
I REALLY AM SORRY.
DON'T APOLOGIZE... PLEASE...

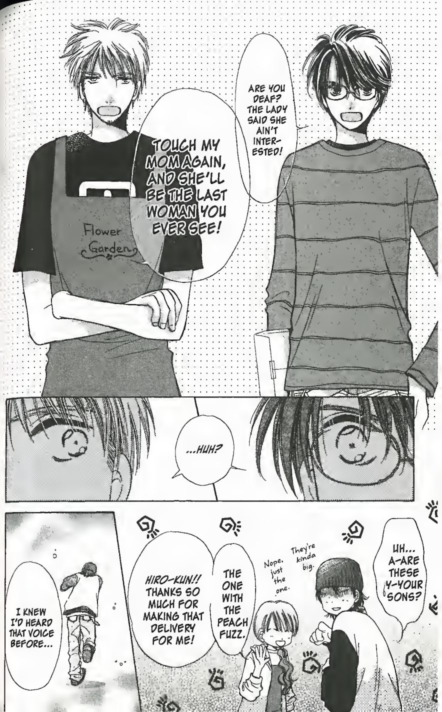

I MEAN, HIRAO-SENPAI KNOWS FULL WELL JUST HOW STUCK ON YABE-SENPAI I AM.
EEEE! YABE-SENPAI!!
Shouldn't you be in class?
HNNNNNNH...
THE MORE I THINK ABOUT IT, THE GUILTIER I FEEL.
It's okay, Muroi! Just have confidence!
DESPITE HIS OWN FEELINGS, HE ALWAYS GAVE ME ADVICE.
Erm... ah...I know...
I GUESS IT SEEMED WEIRD THAT HE WAS SO NICE TO ME...
I thought it would look good on you.
...so I bought it
...BUT I WOULD HAVE NEVER GUESSED IT WAS LOVE... OR IS IT LUST?!
SO WEIRD.
HE'LL WAIT TWO YEARS FOR AN ANSWER? WOW!
HIRAO-SENPAI MUST HAVE A SCREW LOSE!
HUH?
YEAH, BUT IT'S THE RIGHT SCREW.
THERE'S A METHOD TO HIS MADNESS, TURNING THIS INTO A LONG-TERM BATTLE.
HE KNOWS YOU'LL NEED TIME.

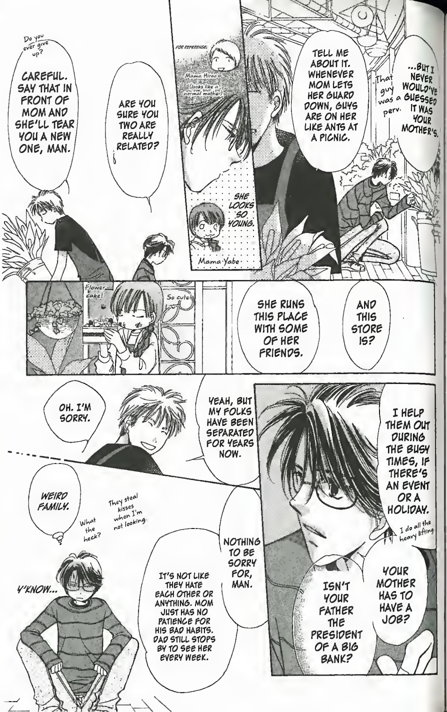

TWO YEARS SHOULD BE ENOUGH TIME FOR YOU TO GET YABE OUT OF YOUR SYSTEM.
NGARR
TOO MUCH TIME, IF YOU ASK ME.
YOU DON'T KNOW THAT! MAYBE YABE-SENPAI WILL COME BACK TO ME IN THAT AMOUNT OF TIME!
HAR! FAT CHANCE, SISTER!
COULD I REALLY COMPLETELY FORGET ABOUT YABE-SENPAI?
EVEN IF THERE'S NO CHANCE OF US EVER GETTING BACK TOGETHER AGAIN...
Okay, whatever! You eat like a pig!!
...WILL I EVER, COULD I EVER...
...LET GO OF MY LOVE FOR HIM?
My fish sausage is gone!
ah!
Because you ate it!
BUT FIRST...

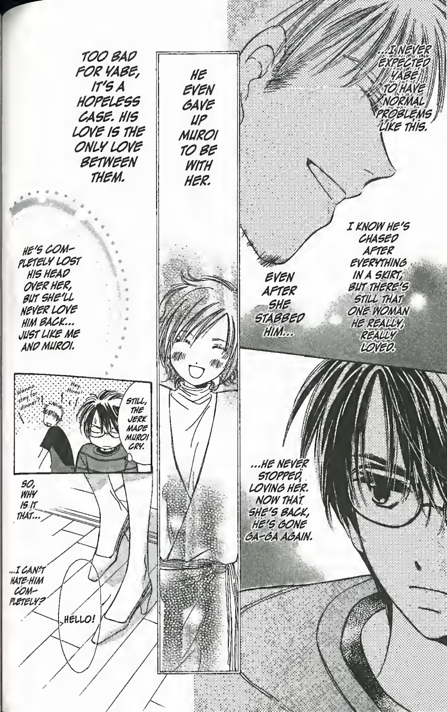

...HOW THE HECK AM I SUPPOSED TO FACE HIRAO AT SCHOOL TOMORROW?!
I HAVE NO IDEA HOW I'M SUPPOSED TO FACE MUROI TOMORROW.
I DON'T REGRET TELLING HER HOW I FEEL...
...BUT...
...WHAT IF SHE STARTS AVOIDING ME BECAUSE OF IT?
OH, GAWD...
...NOW WHAT DO I DO?
Hey!
Check that guy out!
Wait, isn't he some big shot at Meirin High?
Ha ha! Where do I sign up?
I bet he's some kind of ladies man!
Ooh, nice!
WHY DO PEOPLE ALWAYS THINK THAT ABOUT ME?

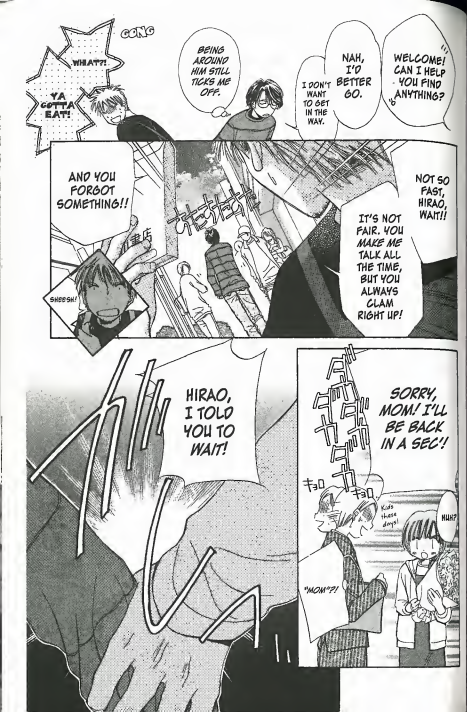

IF I WAS SUCH A PLAYER, WHY WOULD I NEED SELF-HELP BOOKS ON ROMANCE?!
MORE THAN A LITTLE PANICKED.
Words of Love to Read When You Are Lost
Advice on romance, marriage, friends, and family.
You Too Can Be A Master of Love Find Love in No Time Flat!
This book will change your life forever!
I AM SO PATHETIC...
WOULD YOU PLEASE JUST GO HOME?!
HUH?
THAT VOICE...
AWW, C'MON, BABE! DON'T BE LIKE THAT.
I WILL BE LIKE THAT! I'D LIKE TO GET BACK TO WORK, IF YOU DON'T MIND.
YOU'VE DISRUPTED MY WHOLE DAY!
TAKE IT EASY. HOW AM I DISRUPTIVE?
I WAS JUST ASKING IF YOU WANTED TO JOIN ME FOR DINNER LATER, THAT'S ALL.
AND I ALREADY SAID NO!

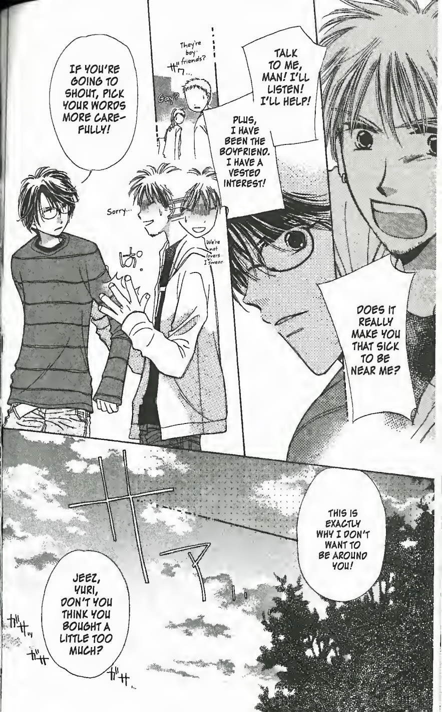

HOW ABOUT TOMORROW THEN? COZ I KNOW WE'VE MET BEFORE!
NO, AND NEVER.
AWW, WHY NOT? IF I BUY SOME FLOWERS, YOU CAN STICK YOUR CELL NUMBER IN 'EM, 'KAY?
I'D BE MORE THAN HAPPY TO SELL YOU SOME FLOWERS...
...BUT MY PHONE NUMBER IS NOT PART OF THE PACKAGE.
BESIDES, I'M ALREADY MARRIED WITH CHILDREN.
HA HA! PULL ANOTHER ONE, BABE!
IS THAT YOUR REGULAR COVER STORY TO KEEP THE GUYS IN CHECK?
OW!
IT'S NOT A STORY! MY SON IS ALMOST AS OLD AS YOU ARE!
Nice touch!
BUT SERIOUSLY, ARE YOU SURE WE HAVEN'T MET? I'D SWEAR I'VE SEEN YOU BEFORE.
Sale
¥500
ARRRRGH! LET ME GO, PLEASE!
YOU GET CUTER WHEN YOU GET MAD--
LET HER GO!

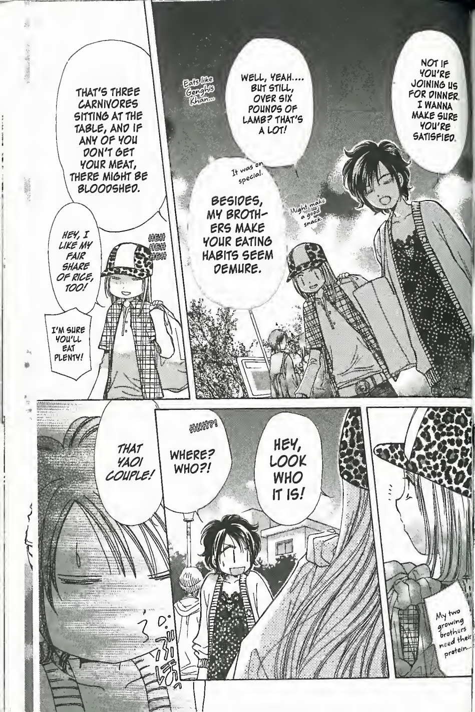

ARE YOU DEAF? THE LADY SAID SHE AIN'T INTERESTED!
TOUCH MY MOM AGAIN, AND SHE'LL BE THE LAST WOMAN YOU EVER SEE!
Flower Garden
...HUH?
UH... A-ARE THESE Y-YOUR SONS?
They're kinda big.
Nope, just the one.
THE ONE WITH THE PEACH FUZZ.
HIRO-KUN!! THANKS SO MUCH FOR MAKING THAT DELIVERY FOR ME!
I KNEW I'D HEARD THAT VOICE BEFORE...

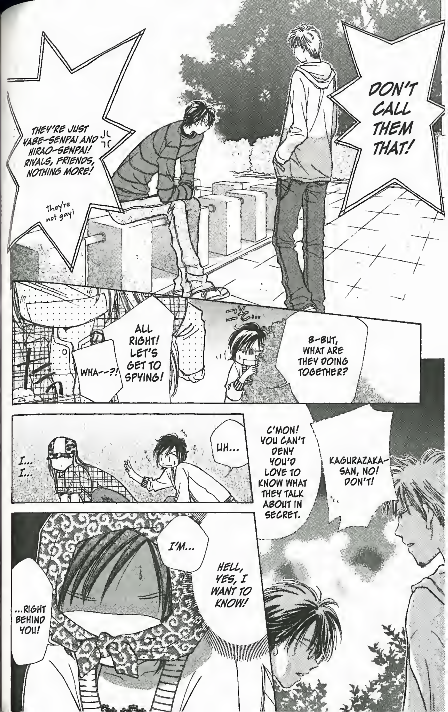

...BUT I NEVER WOULD'VE GUESSED IT WAS YOUR MOTHER'S.
That guy was a perv.
TELL ME ABOUT IT. WHENEVER MOM LETS HER GUARD DOWN, GUYS ARE ON HER LIKE ANTS AT A PICNIC.
FOR REFERENCE.
Mama Hiro (looks like a normal mother)
SHE LOOKS SO YOUNG.
Mama Yabe
ARE YOU SURE YOU TWO ARE REALLY RELATED?
CAREFUL. SAY THAT IN FRONT OF MOM AND SHE'LL TEAR YOU A NEW ONE, MAN.
Do you ever give up?
AND THIS STORE IS?
SHE RUNS THIS PLACE WITH SOME OF HER FRIENDS.
So cute!
Flower cake!
I HELP THEM OUT DURING THE BUSY TIMES, IF THERE'S AN EVENT OR A HOLIDAY.
I do all the heavy lifting.
YOUR MOTHER HAS TO HAVE A JOB?
ISN'T YOUR FATHER THE PRESIDENT OF A BIG BANK?
YEAH, BUT MY FOLKS HAVE BEEN SEPARATED FOR YEARS NOW.
OH. I'M SORRY.
NOTHING TO BE SORRY FOR, MAN.
IT'S NOT LIKE THEY HATE EACH OTHER OR ANYTHING. MOM JUST HAS NO PATIENCE FOR HIS BAD HABITS. DAD STILL STOPS BY TO SEE HER EVERY WEEK.
Y'KNOW...
WEIRD FAMILY.
They steal kisses when I'm not looking.
What the heck?

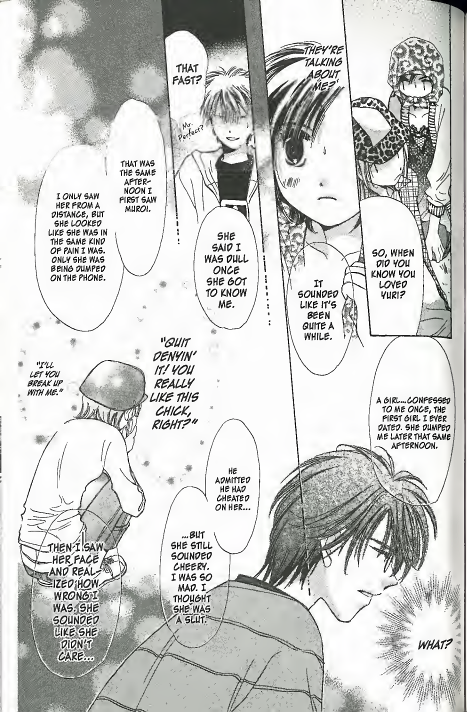

...I NEVER EXPECTED YABE TO HAVE NORMAL PROBLEMS LIKE THIS.
I KNOW HE'S CHASED AFTER EVERYTHING IN A SKIRT, BUT THERE'S STILL THAT ONE WOMAN HE REALLY, REALLY LOVED.
EVEN AFTER SHE STABBED HIM...
...HE NEVER STOPPED LOVING HER. NOW THAT SHE'S BACK, HE'S GONE GA-GA AGAIN.
HE EVEN GAVE UP MUROI TO BE WITH HER.
TOO BAD FOR YABE, IT'S A HOPELESS CASE. HIS LOVE IS THE ONLY LOVE BETWEEN THEM.
HE'S COMPLETELY LOST HIS HEAD OVER HER, BUT SHE'LL NEVER LOVE HIM BACK... JUST LIKE ME AND MUROI.
STILL, THE JERK MADE MUROI CRY.
Hey, Hirao!
Wanna stay for dinner?!
SO, WHY IS IT THAT...
...I CAN'T HATE HIM COMPLETELY?
HELLO!

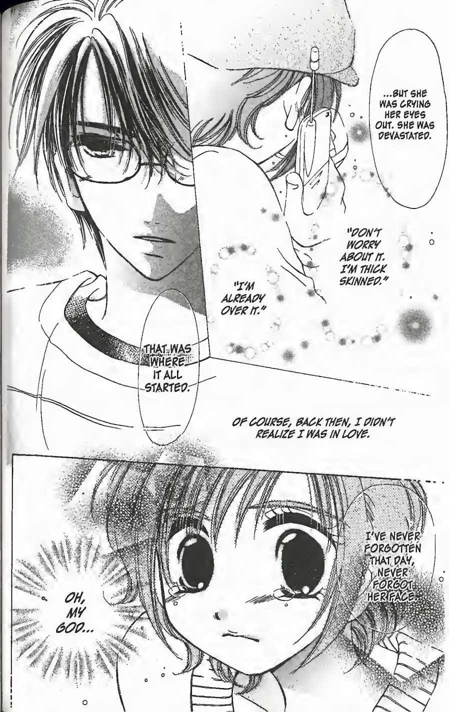

WELCOME! CAN I HELP YOU FIND ANYTHING?
NAH, I'D BETTER GO.
I DON'T WANT TO GET IN THE WAY.
BEING AROUND HIM STILL TICKS ME OFF.
GONG
WHAT?!
YA GOTTA EAT!
NOT SO FAST, HIRAO, WAIT!!
IT'S NOT FAIR. YOU MAKE ME TALK ALL THE TIME, BUT YOU ALWAYS CLAM RIGHT UP!
AND YOU FORGOT SOMETHING!!
書店
SHEESH!
SORRY, MOM! I'LL BE BACK IN A SEC'!
HUH?
キョロ
キョロ
Kids these days!
"MOM"?!
HIRAO, I TOLD YOU TO WAIT!

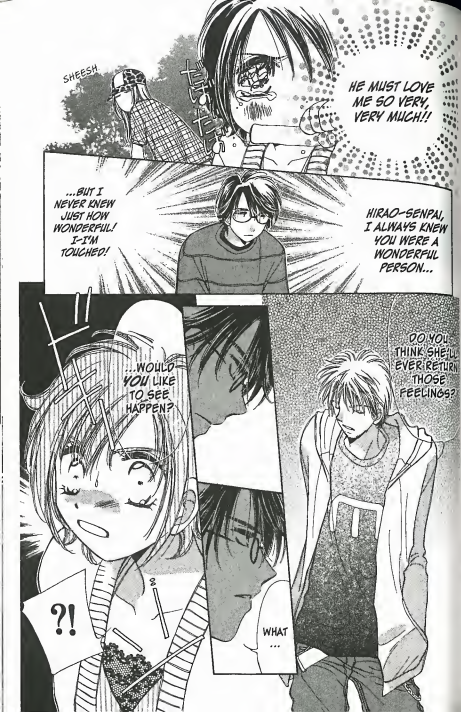

TALK TO ME, MAN! I'LL LISTEN! I'LL HELP!
PLUS, I HAVE BEEN THE BOYFRIEND. I HAVE A VESTED INTEREST!
DOES IT REALLY MAKE YOU THAT SICK TO BE NEAR ME?
THIS IS EXACTLY WHY I DON'T WANT TO BE AROUND YOU!
They're boy-friends?
ザワ...
Gay?
IF YOU'RE GOING TO SHOUT, PICK YOUR WORDS MORE CARE-FULLY!
ぱっ。
Sorry...
We're not lovers I swear
ザア
ガサ..
JEEZ, YURI, DON'T YOU THINK YOU BOUGHT A LITTLE TOO MUCH?

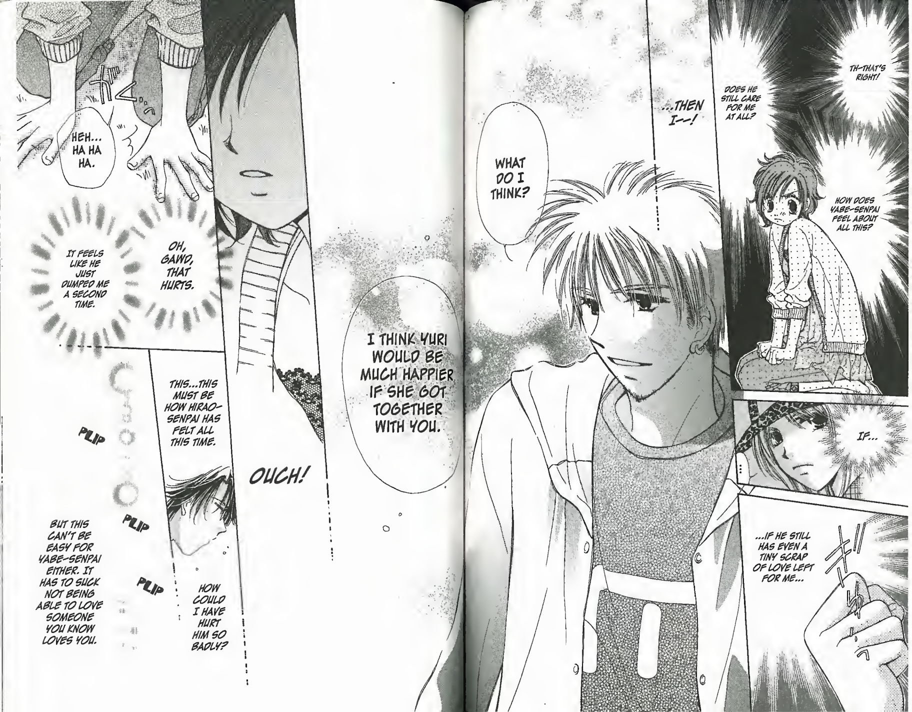

NOT IF YOU'RE JOINING US FOR DINNER. I WANNA MAKE SURE YOU'RE SATISFIED.
WELL, YEAH.... BUT STILL, OVER SIX POUNDS OF LAMB? THAT'S A LOT!
Eats like Genghis Khan...
It was on special.
Might make a good snack.
BESIDES, MY BROTH-ERS MAKE YOUR EATING HABITS SEEM DEMURE.
THAT'S THREE CARNIVORES SITTING AT THE TABLE, AND IF ANY OF YOU DON'T GET YOUR MEAT, THERE MIGHT BE BLOODSHED.
HEY, I LIKE MY FAIR SHARE OF RICE, TOO!
HEH HEH HEH
I'M SURE YOU'LL EAT PLENTY!
My two growing brothers need their protein...
ガサ
HEY, LOOK WHO IT IS!
HUH?!
WHERE? WHO?!
THAT YAOI COUPLE!
ぷ
ぷりぷりっ

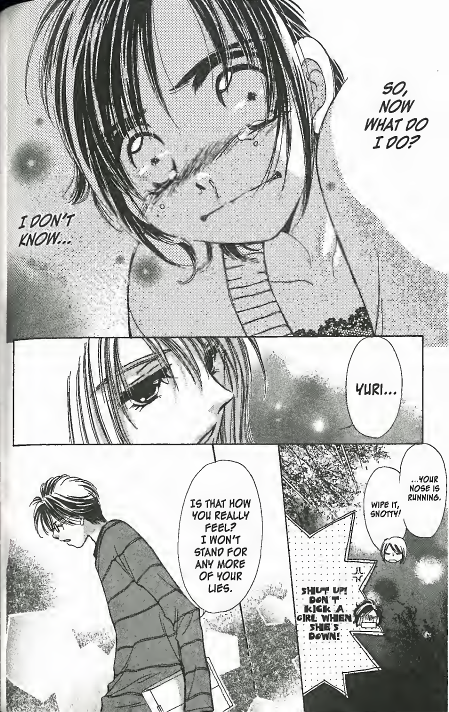

DON'T CALL THEM THAT!
THEY'RE JUST YABE-SENPAI AND HIRAO-SENPAI! RIVALS, FRIENDS, NOTHING MORE!
They're not gay!
B-BUT, WHAT ARE THEY DOING TOGETHER?
ALL RIGHT! LET'S GET TO SPYING!
WHA--?!
KAGURAZAKA-SAN, NO! DON'T!
C'MON! YOU CAN'T DENY YOU'D LOVE TO KNOW WHAT THEY TALK ABOUT IN SECRET.
UH...
I... I...
HELL, YES, I WANT TO KNOW!
I'M...
...RIGHT BEHIND YOU!

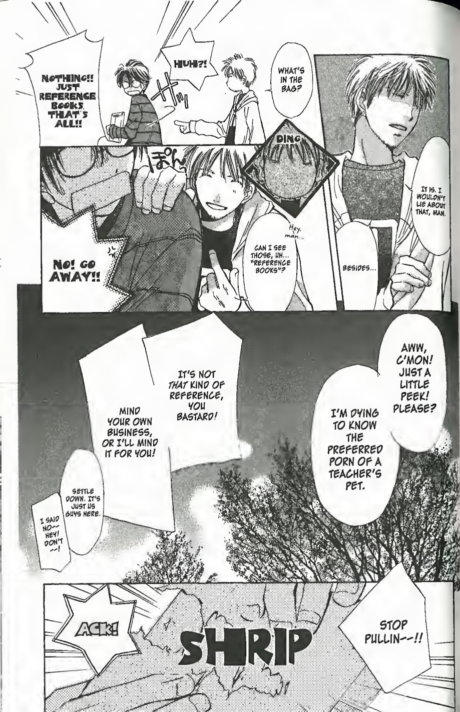

THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT ME?
SO, WHEN DID YOU KNOW YOU LOVED YURI?
IT SOUNDED LIKE IT'S BEEN QUITE A WHILE.
A GIRL...CONFESSED TO ME ONCE, THE FIRST GIRL I EVER DATED. SHE DUMPED ME LATER THAT SAME AFTERNOON.
THAT FAST?
Mr. Perfect?
SHE SAID I WAS DULL ONCE SHE GOT TO KNOW ME.
THAT WAS THE SAME AFTERNOON I FIRST SAW MUROI.
I ONLY SAW HER FROM A DISTANCE, BUT SHE LOOKED LIKE SHE WAS IN THE SAME KIND OF PAIN I WAS. ONLY SHE WAS BEING DUMPED ON THE PHONE.
HE ADMITTED HE HAD CHEATED ON HER...
...BUT SHE STILL SOUNDED CHEERY. I WAS SO MAD. I THOUGHT SHE WAS A SLUT.
WHAT?
"QUIT DENYIN' IT! YOU REALLY LIKE THIS CHICK, RIGHT?"
"I'LL LET YOU BREAK UP WITH ME."
THEN I SAW HER FACE AND REALIZED HOW WRONG I WAS. SHE SOUNDED LIKE SHE DIDN'T CARE...

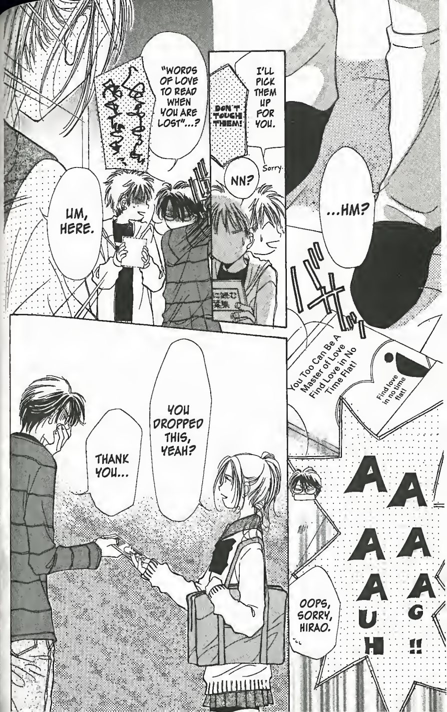

...BUT SHE WAS CRYING HER EYES OUT. SHE WAS DEVASTATED.
"DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. I'M THICK SKINNED."
"I'M ALREADY OVER IT."
THAT WAS WHERE IT ALL STARTED.
OF COURSE, BACK THEN, I DIDN'T REALIZE I WAS IN LOVE.
I'VE NEVER FORGOTTEN THAT DAY, NEVER FORGOT HER FACE.
OH, MY GOD...

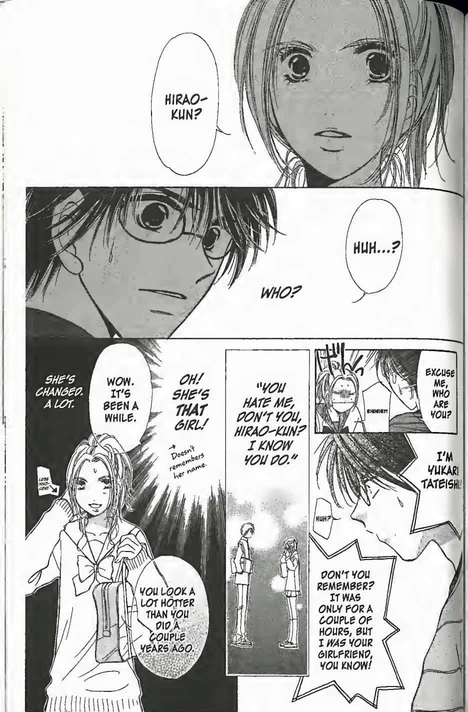

HE MUST LOVE ME SO VERY, VERY MUCH!!
SHEESH.
HIRAO-SENPAI, I ALWAYS KNEW YOU WERE A WONDERFUL PERSON...
...BUT I NEVER KNEW JUST HOW WONDERFUL! I-I'M TOUCHED!
DO YOU THINK SHE'LL EVER RETURN THOSE FEELINGS?
WHAT ...
...WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE HAPPEN?
?!

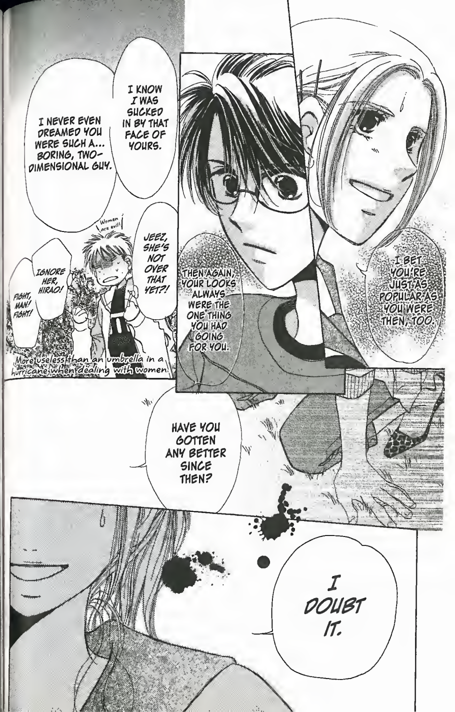

TH-THAT'S RIGHT!
DOES HE STILL CARE FOR ME AT ALL?
HOW DOES YABE-SENPAI FEEL ABOUT ALL THIS?
IF...
...IF HE STILL HAS EVEN A TINY SCRAP OF LOVE LEFT FOR ME...
...THEN I--!
WHAT DO I THINK?
I THINK YURI WOULD BE MUCH HAPPIER IF SHE GOT TOGETHER WITH YOU.
OUCH!
HEH... HA HA HA.
OH, GAWD, THAT HURTS.
IT FEELS LIKE HE JUST DUMPED ME A SECOND TIME.
THIS...THIS MUST BE HOW HIRAO-SENPAI HAS FELT ALL THIS TIME.
PLIP
PLIP
PLIP
HOW COULD I HAVE HURT HIM SO BADLY?
BUT THIS CAN'T BE EASY FOR YABE-SENPAI EITHER. IT HAS TO SUCK NOT BEING ABLE TO LOVE SOMEONE YOU KNOW LOVES YOU.

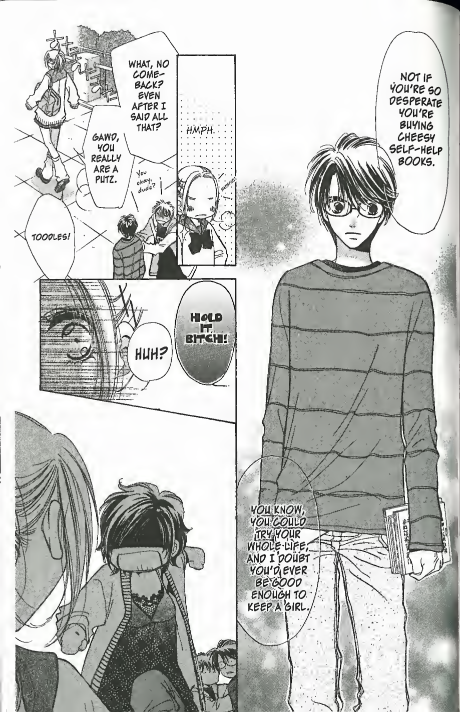

SO, NOW WHAT DO I DO?
I DON'T KNOW...
YURI...
...YOUR NOSE IS RUNNING.
WIPE IT, SNOTTY!
IS THAT HOW YOU REALLY FEEL? I WON'T STAND FOR ANY MORE OF YOUR LIES.
SHUT UP! DON'T KICK A GIRL WHEN SHE'S DOWN!

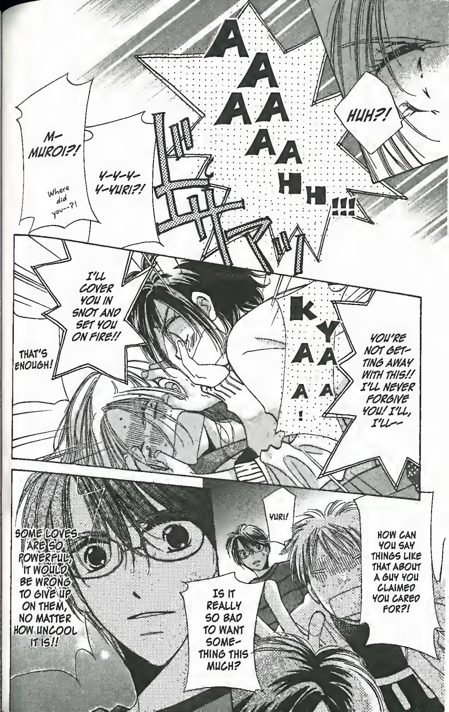

WHAT'S IN THE BAG?
HUH?!
NOTHING!! JUST REFERENCE BOOKS, THAT'S ALL!!
IT IS. I WOULDN'T LIE ABOUT THAT, MAN.
BESIDES...
DING
Hey, man...
CAN I SEE THOSE, UH... "REFERENCE BOOKS"?
ぽん
NO! GO AWAY!!
AWW, C'MON! JUST A LITTLE PEEK! PLEASE?
I'M DYING TO KNOW THE PREFERRED PORN OF A TEACHER'S PET.
IT'S NOT THAT KIND OF REFERENCE, YOU BASTARD!
MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS, OR I'LL MIND IT FOR YOU!
SETTLE DOWN. IT'S JUST US GUYS HERE.
I SAID NO-- HEY! DON'T --!
STOP PULLIN--!!
SHRIP
ACK!

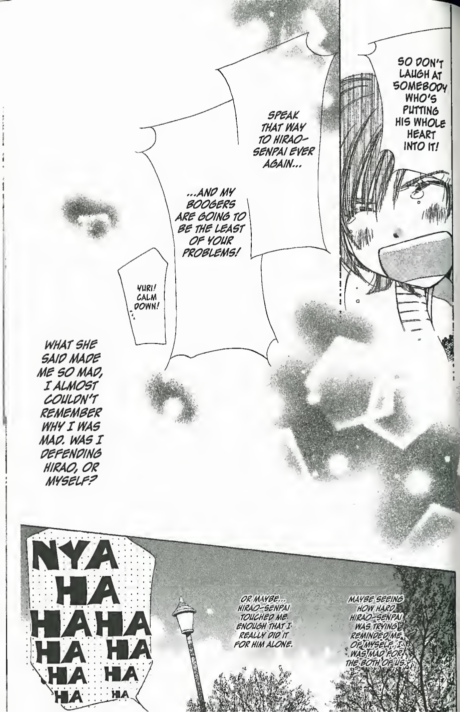

...HM?
バサッ
You Too Can Be A Master of Love Find Love in No Time Flat!
Find love in no time flat!
AAAUH
AAAG!!
OOPS, SORRY, HIRAO.
...
I'LL PICK THEM UP FOR YOU.
DON'T TOUCH THEM!
Sorry.
NN?
"WORDS OF LOVE TO READ WHEN YOU ARE LOST"...?
UM, HERE.
YOU DROPPED THIS, YEAH?
THANK YOU...

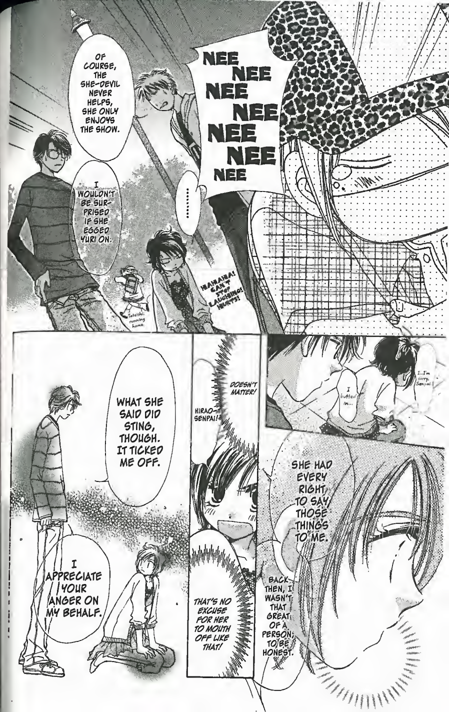

HIRAO-KUN?
HUH...?
WHO?
EXCUSE ME, WHO ARE YOU?
EHHHH?!
I'M YUKARI TATEISHI!
HUH?
DON'T YOU REMEMBER? IT WAS ONLY FOR A COUPLE OF HOURS, BUT I WAS YOUR GIRLFRIEND, YOU KNOW!
"YOU HATE ME, DON'T YOU, HIRAO-KUN? I KNOW YOU DO."
OH! SHE'S THAT GIRL!
→ Doesn't remembers her name.
WOW. IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
SHE'S CHANGED. A LOT.
LESS INNOCENT
YOU LOOK A LOT HOTTER THAN YOU DID A COUPLE YEARS AGO.

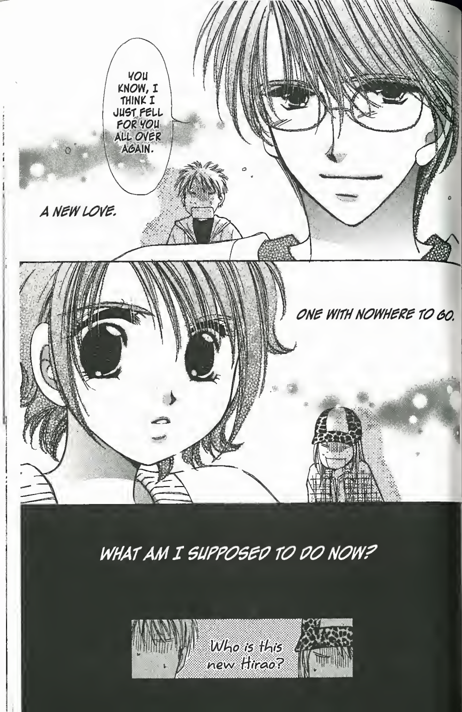

I BET YOU'RE JUST AS POPULAR AS YOU WERE THEN, TOO.
THEN AGAIN, YOUR LOOKS ALWAYS WERE THE ONE THING YOU HAD GOING FOR YOU.
I KNOW I WAS SUCKED IN BY THAT FACE OF YOURS.
I NEVER EVEN DREAMED YOU WERE SUCH A... BORING, TWO-DIMENSIONAL GUY.
Women are evil!
JEEZ, SHE'S NOT OVER THAT YET?!
IGNORE HER, HIRAO!
FIGHT, MAN! FIGHT!
More useless than an umbrella in a hurricane when dealing with women.
HAVE YOU GOTTEN ANY BETTER SINCE THEN?
I DOUBT IT.

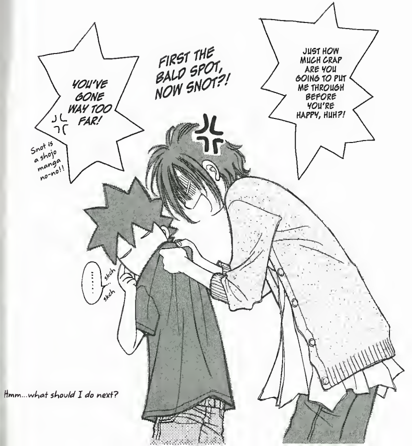

NOT IF YOU'RE SO DESPERATE YOU'RE BUYING CHEESY SELF-HELP BOOKS.
YOU KNOW, YOU COULD TRY YOUR WHOLE LIFE, AND I DOUBT YOU'D EVER BE GOOD ENOUGH TO KEEP A GIRL.
HMPH.
SATISFIED
WHAT, NO COME-BACK? EVEN AFTER I SAID ALL THAT?
GAWD, YOU REALLY ARE A PUTZ.
You okay, dude?
TOODLES!
HOLD IT, BITCH!
HUH?


AAAAAAHH!!!
HUH?!
M-MUROI?!
Where did you--?!
Y-Y-Y-Y-YURI?!
YOU'RE NOT GETTING AWAY WITH THIS!! I'LL NEVER FORGIVE YOU! I'LL, I'LL--
KYAAA!
I'LL COVER YOU IN SNOT AND SET YOU ON FIRE!!
THAT'S ENOUGH!
HOW CAN YOU SAY THINGS LIKE THAT ABOUT A GUY YOU CLAIMED YOU CARED FOR?!
YURI!
IS IT REALLY SO BAD TO WANT SOMETHING THIS MUCH?
SOME LOVES ARE SO POWERFUL, IT WOULD BE WRONG TO GIVE UP ON THEM, NO MATTER HOW UNCOOL IT IS!!


SO DON'T LAUGH AT SOMEBODY WHO'S PUTTING HIS WHOLE HEART INTO IT!
SPEAK THAT WAY TO HIRAO-SENPAI EVER AGAIN...
...AND MY BOOGERS ARE GOING TO BE THE LEAST OF YOUR PROBLEMS!
YURI! CALM DOWN!
WHAT SHE SAID MADE ME SO MAD, I ALMOST COULDN'T REMEMBER WHY I WAS MAD. WAS I DEFENDING HIRAO, OR MYSELF?
MAYBE SEEING HOW HARD HIRAO-SENPAI WAS TRYING REMINDED ME OF MYSELF. I WAS MAD FOR THE BOTH OF US.
OR MAYBE... HIRAO-SENPAI TOUCHED ME ENOUGH THAT I REALLY DID IT FOR HIM ALONE.
NYA HA HAHAHA HA HA HA HA HA HA

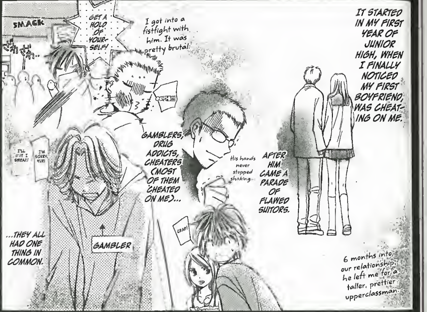

NEE NEE NEE NEE NEE NEE NEE
……
OF COURSE, THE SHE-DEVIL NEVER HELPS, SHE ONLY ENJOYS THE SHOW.
I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF SHE EGGED YURI ON.
HAHAHA! CAN'T STOP LAUGHING! HURTS!
Tateishi, running home.
I...I'm sorry, Senpai.
I butted in...
SHE HAD EVERY RIGHT TO SAY THOSE THINGS TO ME.
BACK THEN, I WASN'T THAT GREAT OF A PERSON, TO BE HONEST.
HIRAO-SENPAI!!
DOESN'T MATTER!
THAT'S NO EXCUSE FOR HER TO MOUTH OFF LIKE THAT!
WHAT SHE SAID DID STING, THOUGH. IT TICKED ME OFF.
I APPRECIATE YOUR ANGER ON MY BEHALF.

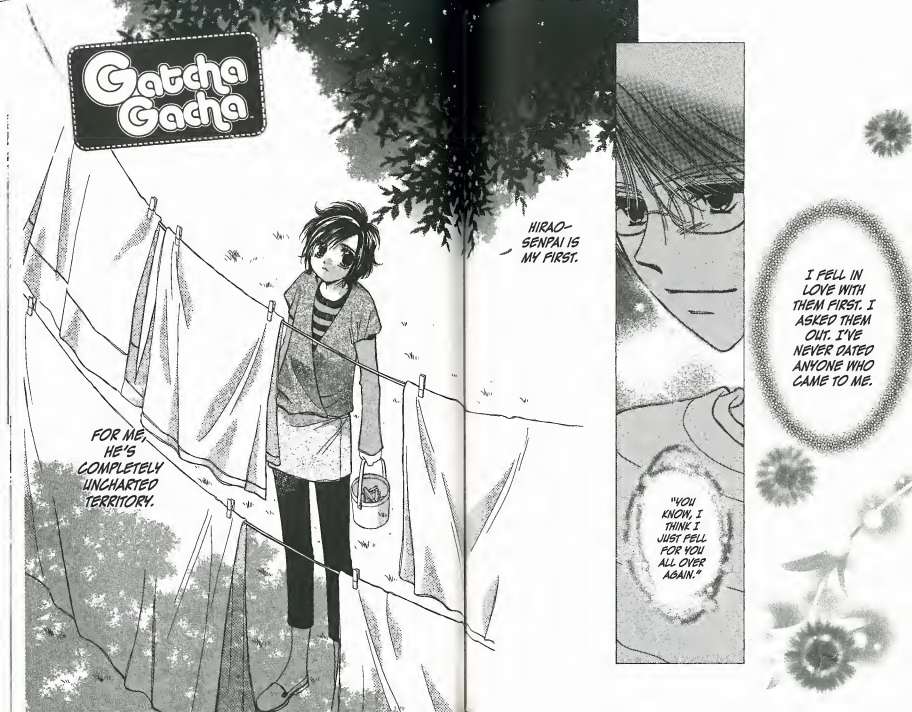

YOU KNOW, I THINK I JUST FELL FOR YOU ALL OVER AGAIN.
A NEW LOVE.
ONE WITH NOWHERE TO GO.
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO NOW?
Who is this new Hirao?

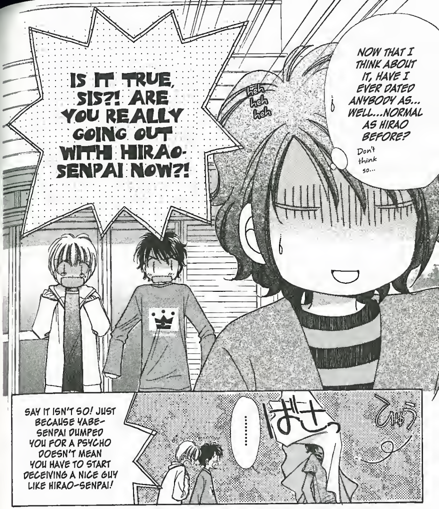

JUST HOW MUCH CRAP ARE YOU GOING TO PUT ME THROUGH BEFORE YOU'RE HAPPY, HUH?!
FIRST THE BALD SPOT, NOW SNOT?!
YOU'VE GONE WAY TOO FAR!
Snot is a shojo manga no-no!!
skch skch
......
Hmm...what should I do next?

Gatcha Gacha

SPEAKING FRANKLY, MY DATING HISTORY IS UGLIER THAN A TRAINWRECK.


IT STARTED IN MY FIRST YEAR OF JUNIOR HIGH, WHEN I FINALLY NOTICED MY FIRST BOYFRIEND WAS CHEATING ON ME.
6 months into our relationship, he left me for a taller, prettier upperclassman.
AFTER HIM CAME A PARADE OF FLAWED SUITORS.
His hands never stopped shaking...
CRAP!
I got into a fistfight with him. It was pretty brutal.
GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF!
SMACK
ざわざわ..
OOPH!!
GAMBLERS, DRUG ADDICTS, CHEATERS (MOST OF THEM CHEATED ON ME)...
GAMBLER
I'M SORRY, YURI
I'LL QUIT I SWEAR!
...THEY ALL HAD ONE THING IN COMMON.

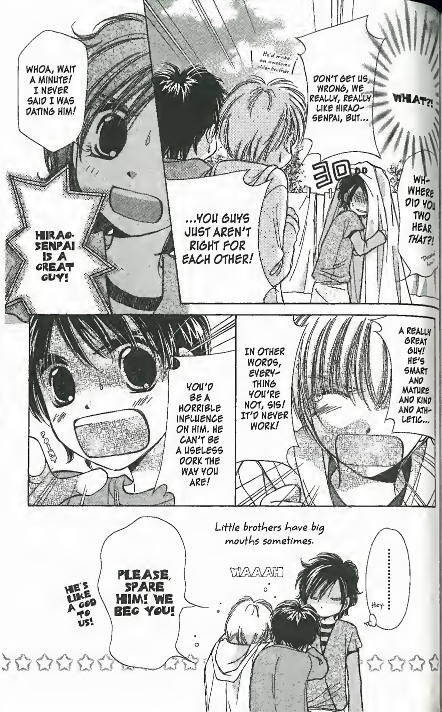

I FELL IN LOVE WITH THEM FIRST. I ASKED THEM OUT. I'VE NEVER DATED ANYONE WHO CAME TO ME.
"YOU KNOW, I THINK I JUST FELL FOR YOU ALL OVER AGAIN."
HIRAO-SENPAI IS MY FIRST.
Gatcha Gacha
FOR ME, HE'S COMPLETELY UNCHARTED TERRITORY.

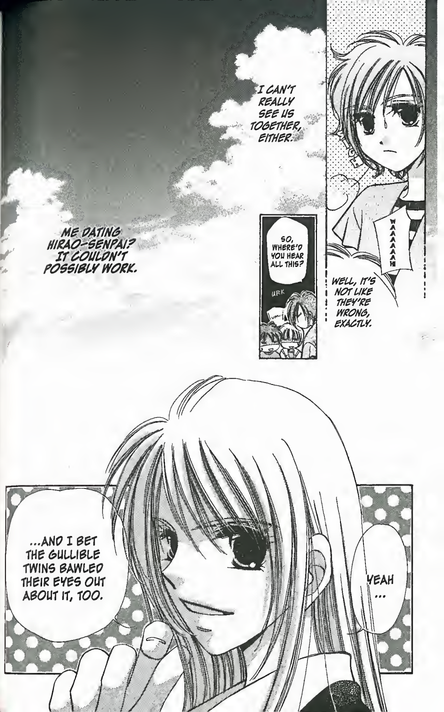

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, HAVE I EVER DATED ANYBODY AS... WELL...NORMAL AS HIRAO BEFORE?
Don't think so...
heh heh heh
IS IT TRUE, SIS?! ARE YOU REALLY GOING OUT WITH HIRAO-SENPAI NOW?!
ひゅう
ばさっ
……
SAY IT ISN'T SO! JUST BECAUSE YABE-SENPAI DUMPED YOU FOR A PSYCHO DOESN'T MEAN YOU HAVE TO START DECEIVING A NICE GUY LIKE HIRAO-SENPAI!

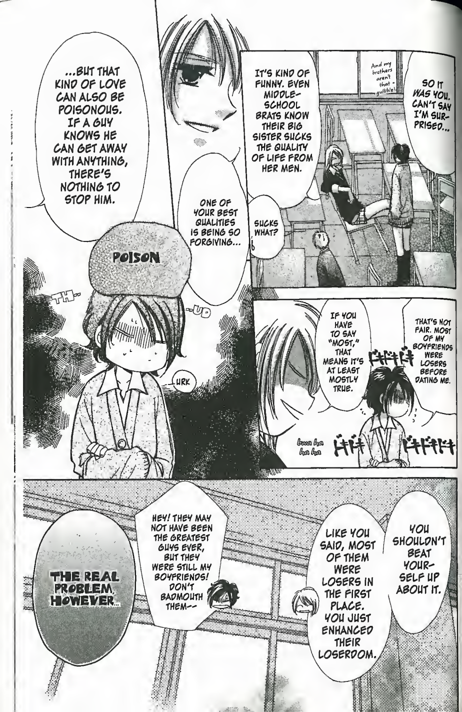
Recommended DVD
Napoleon Dynamite

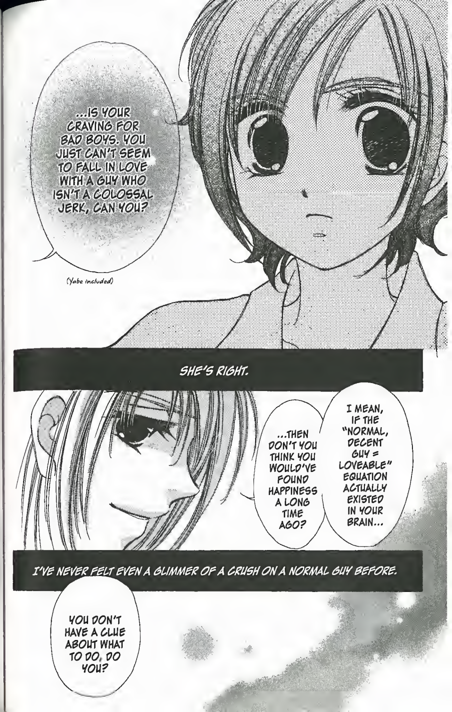
While the Japanese title for this movie (Bus Man) may remind some of a different, more romantic story, this film is no romance. It's a straight-up comedy through and through. The movie is an uber-low-budget, slice-of-life flick about Napoleon Dynamite, a geeky high-school kid who's an utter social klutz. He has a strange family and sketchy friends. The story plods along from beginning to end, almost lazily interjecting moments of total hilarity the whole way.

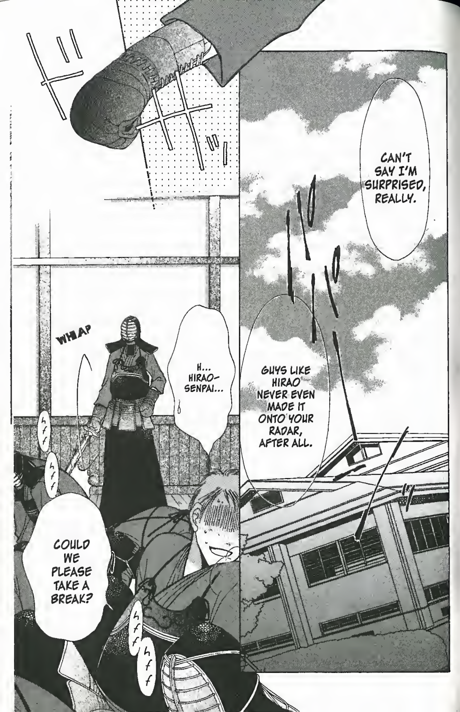
Personally, I thought this flick was several hundred times more entertaining than movies like Star Wars and War of the Worlds. GO WATCH IT!

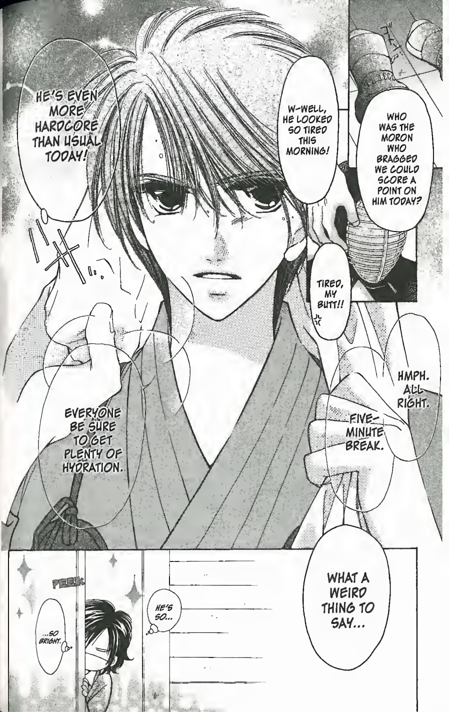

WHAT?!
WH-WHERE DID YOU TWO HEAR THAT?!
DON'T GET US WRONG, WE REALLY, REALLY LIKE HIRAO-SENPAI, BUT...
He'd make an awesome older brother
ヨロ
...YOU GUYS JUST AREN'T RIGHT FOR EACH OTHER!
WHOA, WAIT A MINUTE! I NEVER SAID I WAS DATING HIM!
HIRAO-SENPAI IS A GREAT GUY!
A REALLY GREAT GUY! HE'S SMART AND MATURE AND KIND AND ATHLETIC...
IN OTHER WORDS, EVERYTHING YOU'RE NOT, SIS! IT'D NEVER WORK!
YOU'D BE A HORRIBLE INFLUENCE ON HIM. HE CAN'T BE A USELESS DORK THE WAY YOU ARE!
POINT
Little brothers have big mouths sometimes.
……
Hey.
WAAAH
PLEASE, SPARE HIM! WE BEG YOU!
HE'S LIKE A GOD TO US!


WAAAAAAAH
WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE THEY'RE WRONG, EXACTLY.
I CAN'T REALLY SEE US TOGETHER, EITHER.
ME DATING HIRAO-SENPAI? IT COULDN'T POSSIBLY WORK.
SO, WHERE'D YOU HEAR ALL THIS?
URK
um...
...AND I BET THE GULLIBLE TWINS BAWLED THEIR EYES OUT ABOUT IT, TOO.
YEAH...


SO IT WAS YOU. CAN'T SAY I'M SURPRISED...
And my brothers aren't that gullible!
IT'S KIND OF FUNNY. EVEN MIDDLE-SCHOOL BRATS KNOW THEIR BIG SISTER SUCKS THE QUALITY OF LIFE FROM HER MEN.
SUCKS WHAT?
ONE OF YOUR BEST QUALITIES IS BEING SO FORGIVING...
...BUT THAT KIND OF LOVE CAN ALSO BE POISONOUS. IF A GUY KNOWS HE CAN GET AWAY WITH ANYTHING, THERE'S NOTHING TO STOP HIM.
POISON
TH--UD
URK
THAT'S NOT FAIR. MOST OF MY BOYFRIENDS WERE LOSERS BEFORE DATING ME.
IF YOU HAVE TO SAY "MOST," THAT MEANS IT'S AT LEAST MOSTLY TRUE.
ドキドキドキ
ドキドキ
ドキドキドキドキ
bwa ha ha ha
YOU SHOULDN'T BEAT YOURSELF UP ABOUT IT.
LIKE YOU SAID, MOST OF THEM WERE LOSERS IN THE FIRST PLACE. YOU JUST ENHANCED THEIR LOSERDOM.
HEY! THEY MAY NOT HAVE BEEN THE GREATEST GUYS EVER, BUT THEY WERE STILL MY BOYFRIENDS! DON'T BADMOUTH THEM--
THE REAL PROBLEM, HOWEVER...


...IS YOUR CRAVING FOR BAD BOYS. YOU JUST CAN'T SEEM TO FALL IN LOVE WITH A GUY WHO ISN'T A COLOSSAL JERK, CAN YOU?
(Yabe included)
SHE'S RIGHT.
I MEAN, IF THE "NORMAL, DECENT GUY = LOVEABLE" EQUATION ACTUALLY EXISTED IN YOUR BRAIN...
...THEN DON'T YOU THINK YOU WOULD'VE FOUND HAPPINESS A LONG TIME AGO?
I'VE NEVER FELT EVEN A GLIMMER OF A CRUSH ON A NORMAL GUY BEFORE.
YOU DON'T HAVE A CLUE ABOUT WHAT TO DO, DO YOU?


CAN'T SAY I'M SURPRISED, REALLY.
GUYS LIKE HIRAO NEVER EVEN MADE IT ONTO YOUR RADAR, AFTER ALL.
H... HIRAO-SENPAI...
WHAP
COULD WE PLEASE TAKE A BREAK?


WHO WAS THE MORON WHO BRAGGED WE COULD SCORE A POINT ON HIM TODAY?
W-WELL, HE LOOKED SO TIRED THIS MORNING!
HE'S EVEN MORE HARDCORE THAN USUAL TODAY!
TIRED, MY BUTT!!
HMPH. ALL RIGHT.
FIVE-MINUTE BREAK.
EVERYONE BE SURE TO GET PLENTY OF HYDRATION.
WHAT A WEIRD THING TO SAY...
HE'S SO...
PEEK
...SO BRIGHT.

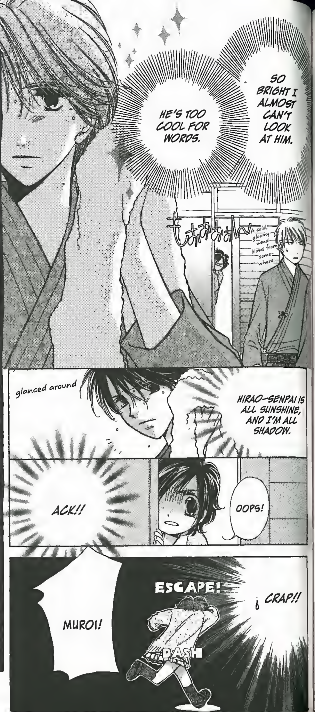
Please direct fan letters of love and adoration for Tachibana to:

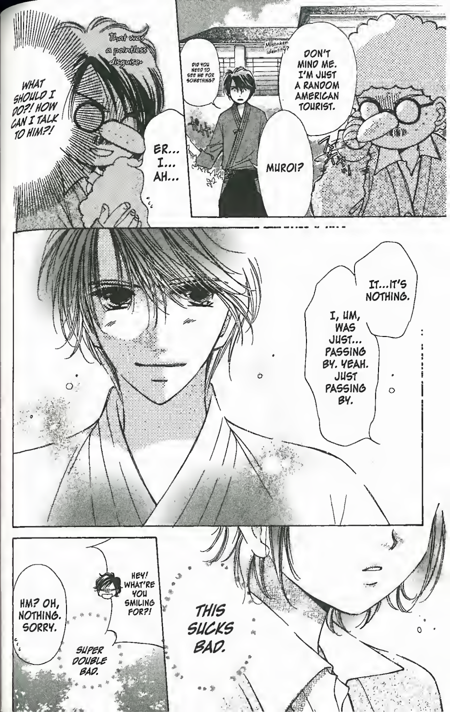
Yutaka Tachibana

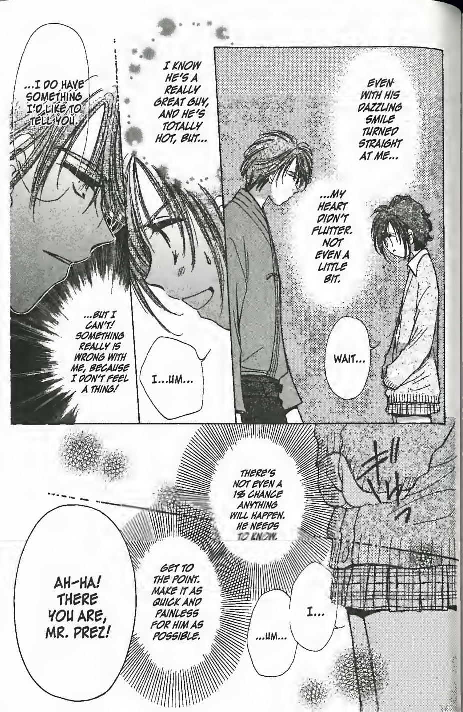
TOKYOPOP Inc.

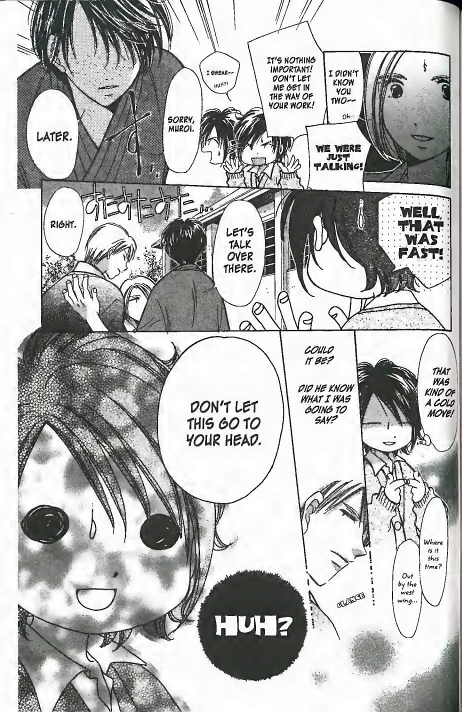
5900 Wilshire Blvd. Suite 2000

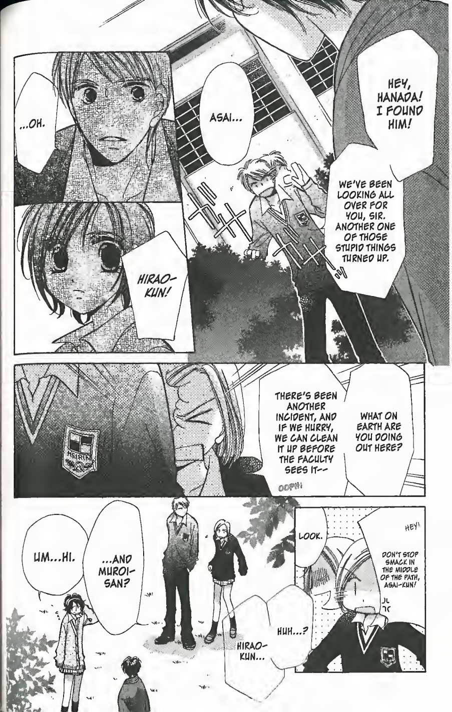
Los Angeles, Ca, 90036

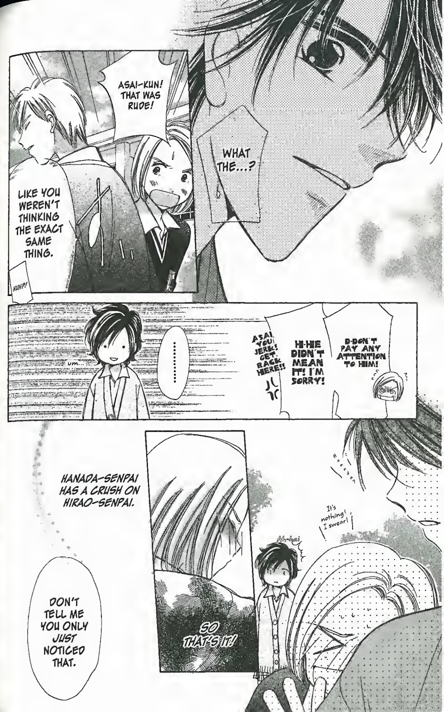

SO BRIGHT I ALMOST CAN'T LOOK AT HIM.
HE'S TOO COOL FOR WORDS.
A cold, gloomy wind blows from somewhere
HIRAO-SENPAI IS ALL SUNSHINE, AND I'M ALL SHADOW.
glanced around
OOPS!
ACK!!
CRAP!!
ESCAPE!
MUROI!
DASH

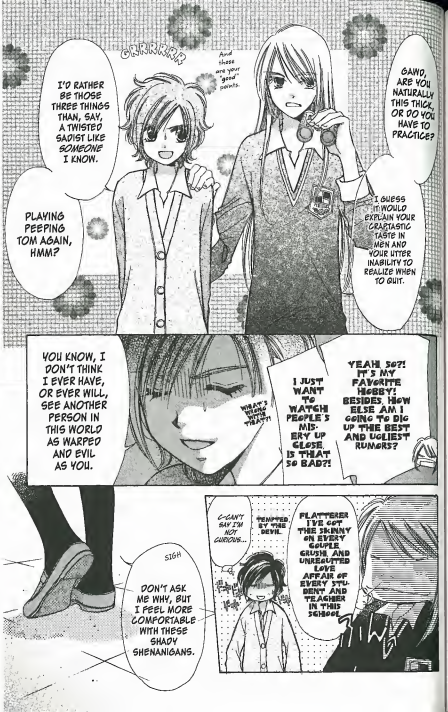

MUROI?
DON'T MIND ME. I'M JUST A RANDOM AMERICAN TOURIST.
Mistaken identity?
DID YOU NEED TO SEE ME FOR SOMETHING?
ER... I... AH...
WHAT SHOULD I DO?! HOW CAN I TALK TO HIM?!
That was a pointless disguise.
IT...IT'S NOTHING.
I, UM, WAS JUST... PASSING BY. YEAH. JUST PASSING BY.
THIS SUCKS BAD.
SUPER DOUBLE BAD.
HEY! WHAT'RE YOU SMILING FOR?!
HM? OH, NOTHING. SORRY.

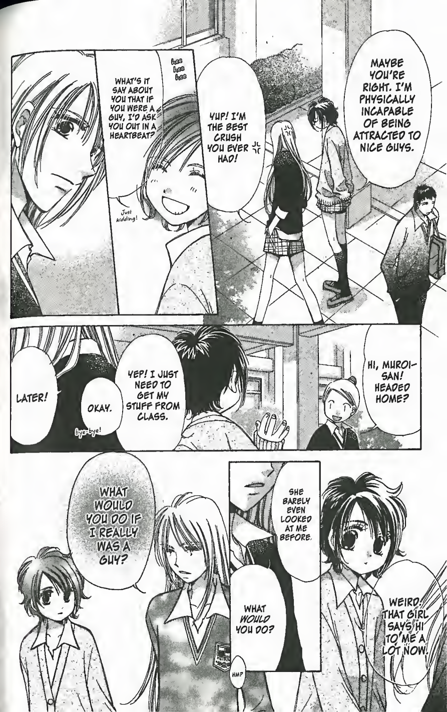

EVEN WITH HIS DAZZLING SMILE TURNED STRAIGHT AT ME...
...MY HEART DIDN'T FLUTTER. NOT EVEN A LITTLE BIT.
WAIT...
I KNOW HE'S A REALLY GREAT GUY, AND HE'S TOTALLY HOT, BUT...
I...UM...
...I DO HAVE SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO TELL YOU.
...BUT I CAN'T! SOMETHING REALLY IS WRONG WITH ME, BECAUSE I DON'T FEEL A THING!
THERE'S NOT EVEN A 1% CHANCE ANYTHING WILL HAPPEN. HE NEEDS TO KNOW.
I...
...UM...
GET TO THE POINT. MAKE IT AS QUICK AND PAINLESS FOR HIM AS POSSIBLE.
AH-HA! THERE YOU ARE, MR. PREZ!

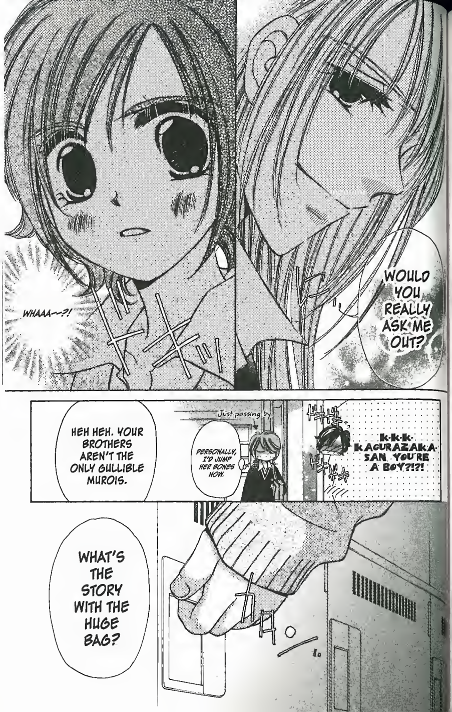

I DIDN'T KNOW YOU TWO--
Oh
IT'S NOTHING IMPORTANT! DON'T LET ME GET IN THE WAY OF YOUR WORK!
I SWEAR-- HUH?!
WE WERE JUST TALKING!
SORRY, MUROI.
LATER.
WELL, THAT WAS FAST!
LET'S TALK OVER THERE.
RIGHT.
すたすたすた
THAT WAS KIND OF A COLD MOVE!
DID HE KNOW WHAT I WAS GOING TO SAY?
COULD IT BE?
Where is it this time?
Out by the west wing...
GLANCE
DON'T LET THIS GO TO YOUR HEAD.
HUH?

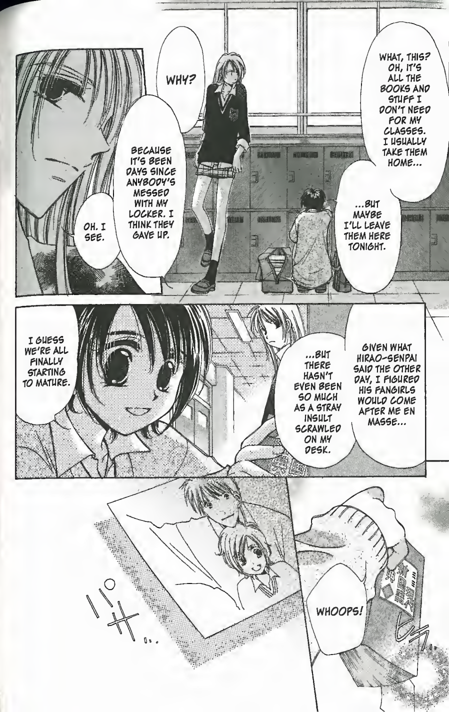

HEY, HANADA! I FOUND HIM!
WE'VE BEEN LOOKING ALL OVER FOR YOU, SIR. ANOTHER ONE OF THOSE STUPID THINGS TURNED UP.
ASAI...
...OH.
HIRAO-KUN!
WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE?
THERE'S BEEN ANOTHER INCIDENT, AND IF WE HURRY, WE CAN CLEAN IT UP BEFORE THE FACULTY SEES IT--
OOPH!
HEY!
DON'T STOP SMACK IN THE MIDDLE OF THE PATH, ASAI-KUN!
LOOK.
HUH...?
HIRAO-KUN...
...AND MUROI-SAN?
UM...HI.

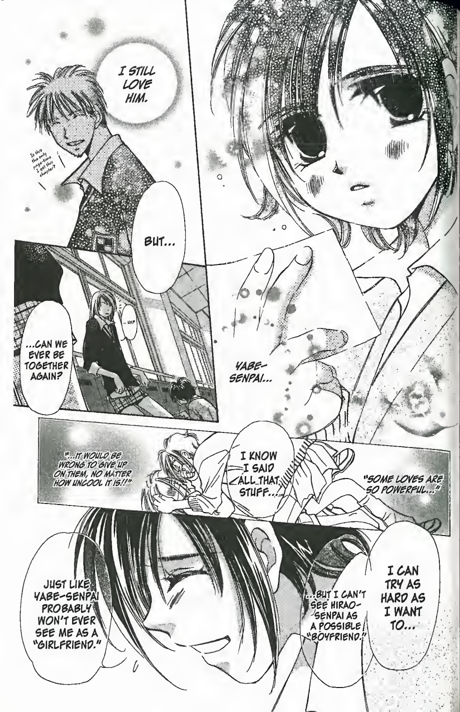

WHAT THE...?
ASAI-KUN! THAT WAS RUDE!
LIKE YOU WEREN'T THINKING THE EXACT SAME THING.
HUH?!
D-DON'T PAY ANY ATTENTION TO HIM!
H-HE DIDN'T MEAN IT! I'M SORRY!
ASAI! YOU JERK! GET BACK HERE!!
......
Um...
Hanada?
It's nothing! I swear!
Ah-hai
HANADA-SENPAI HAS A CRUSH ON HIRAO-SENPAI.
SO THAT'S IT!
DON'T TELL ME YOU ONLY JUST NOTICED THAT.

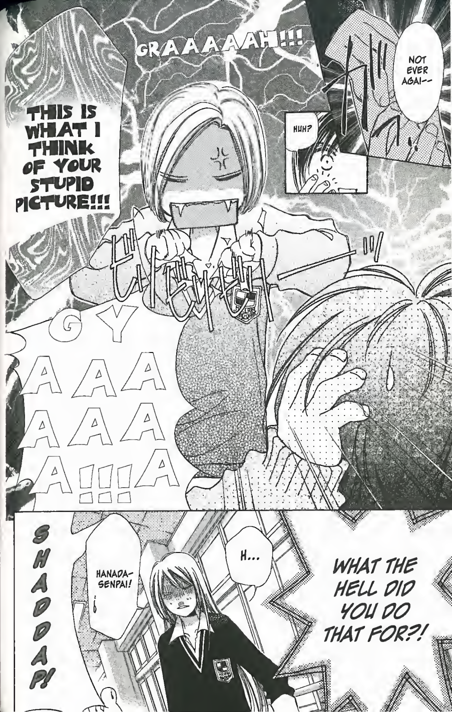

GAWD, ARE YOU NATURALLY THIS THICK, OR DO YOU HAVE TO PRACTICE?
And those are your "good" points.
GRRRRRR
I'D RATHER BE THOSE THREE THINGS THAN, SAY, A TWISTED SADIST LIKE SOMEONE I KNOW.
I GUESS IT WOULD EXPLAIN YOUR CRAPTASTIC TASTE IN MEN AND YOUR UTTER INABILITY TO REALIZE WHEN TO QUIT.
PLAYING PEEPING TOM AGAIN, HMM?
YEAH, SO?! IT'S MY FAVORITE HOBBY! BESIDES, HOW ELSE AM I GOING TO DIG UP THE BEST AND UGLIEST RUMORS?
I JUST WANT TO WATCH PEOPLE'S MISERY UP CLOSE, IS THAT SO BAD?!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?!
YOU KNOW, I DON'T THINK I EVER HAVE, OR EVER WILL, SEE ANOTHER PERSON IN THIS WORLD AS WARPED AND EVIL AS YOU.
FLATTERER. I'VE GOT THE SKINNY ON EVERY COUPLE, CRUSH, AND UNREQUITED LOVE AFFAIR OF EVERY STUDENT AND TEACHER IN THIS SCHOOL.
TEMPTED BY THE DEVIL.
C-CAN'T SAY I'M NOT CURIOUS...
SIGH
DON'T ASK ME WHY, BUT I FEEL MORE COMFORTABLE WITH THESE SHADY SHENANIGANS.

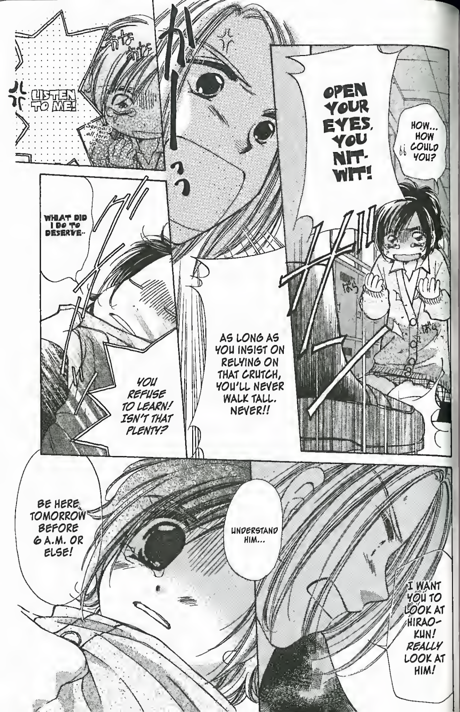

MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT. I'M PHYSICALLY INCAPABLE OF BEING ATTRACTED TO NICE GUYS.
WHAT'S IT SAY ABOUT YOU THAT IF YOU WERE A GUY, I'D ASK YOU OUT IN A HEARTBEAT?
YUP! I'M THE BEST CRUSH YOU EVER HAD!
hee hee hee
Just kidding!
HI, MUROI-SAN! HEADED HOME?
YEP! I JUST NEED TO GET MY STUFF FROM CLASS.
OKAY.
LATER!
bye-bye!
WEIRD. THAT GIRL SAYS HI TO ME A LOT NOW.
SHE BARELY EVEN LOOKED AT ME BEFORE.
WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF I REALLY WAS A GUY?
HM?
WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

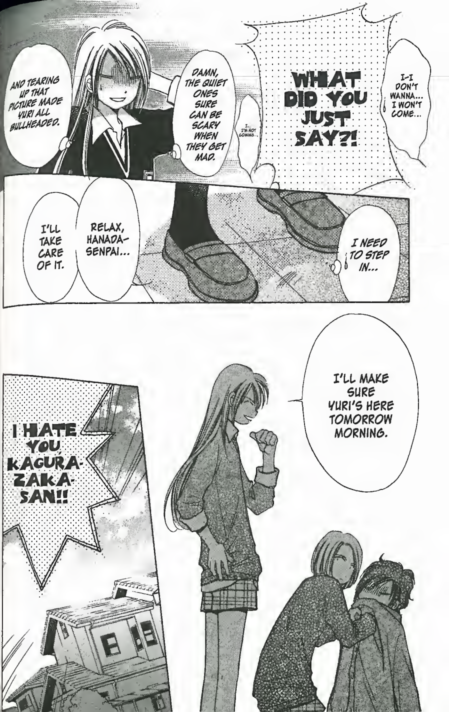

WOULD YOU REALLY ASK ME OUT?
WHAAA--?!
K-K-K-KAGURAZAKA-SAN YOU'RE A BOY?!?!
Just passing by
PERSONALLY, I'D JUMP HER BONES NOW.
HEH HEH. YOUR BROTHERS AREN'T THE ONLY GULLIBLE MUROIS.
WHAT'S THE STORY WITH THE HUGE BAG?

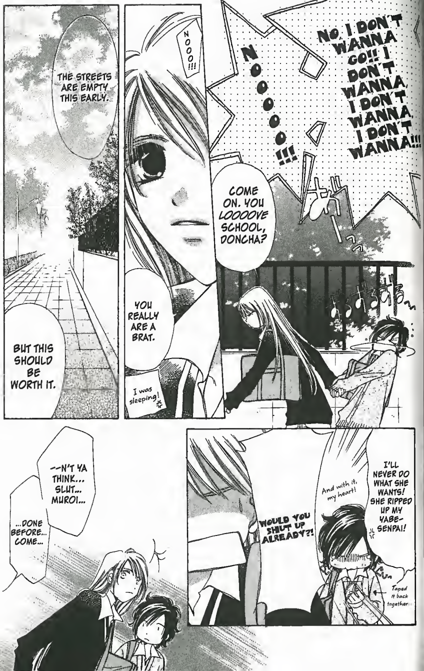

WHAT, THIS? OH, IT'S ALL THE BOOKS AND STUFF I DON'T NEED FOR MY CLASSES. I USUALLY TAKE THEM HOME...
...BUT MAYBE I'LL LEAVE THEM HERE TONIGHT.
WHY?
BECAUSE IT'S BEEN DAYS SINCE ANYBODY'S MESSED WITH MY LOCKER. I THINK THEY GAVE UP.
OH. I SEE.
GIVEN WHAT HIRAO-SENPAI SAID THE OTHER DAY, I FIGURED HIS FANGIRLS WOULD COME AFTER ME EN MASSE...
...BUT THERE HASN'T EVEN BEEN SO MUCH AS A STRAY INSULT SCRAWLED ON MY DESK.
I GUESS WE'RE ALL FINALLY STARTING TO MATURE.
WHOOPS!

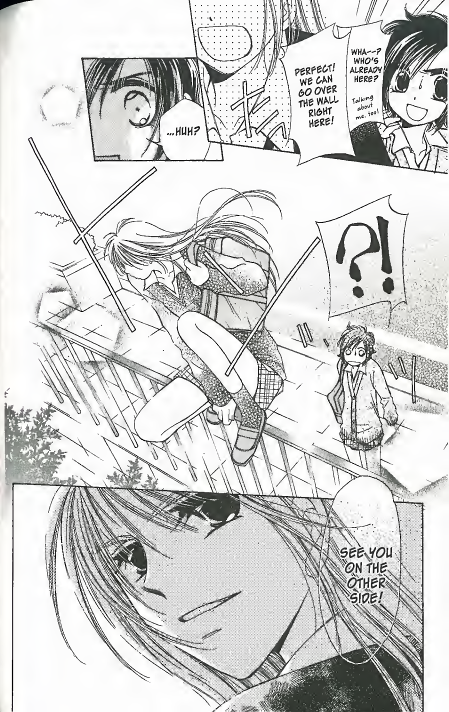

I STILL LOVE HIM.
Is this the only page-time I get this chapter?
BUT...
...why?
...CAN WE EVER BE TOGETHER AGAIN?
YABE-SENPAI...
"SOME LOVES ARE SO POWERFUL..."
I KNOW I SAID ALL THAT STUFF...
"...IT WOULD BE WRONG TO GIVE UP ON THEM, NO MATTER HOW UNCOOL IT IS!!"
I CAN TRY AS HARD AS I WANT TO...
...BUT I CAN'T SEE HIRAO-SENPAI AS A POSSIBLE "BOYFRIEND."
JUST LIKE YABE-SENPAI PROBABLY WON'T EVER SEE ME AS A "GIRLFRIEND."

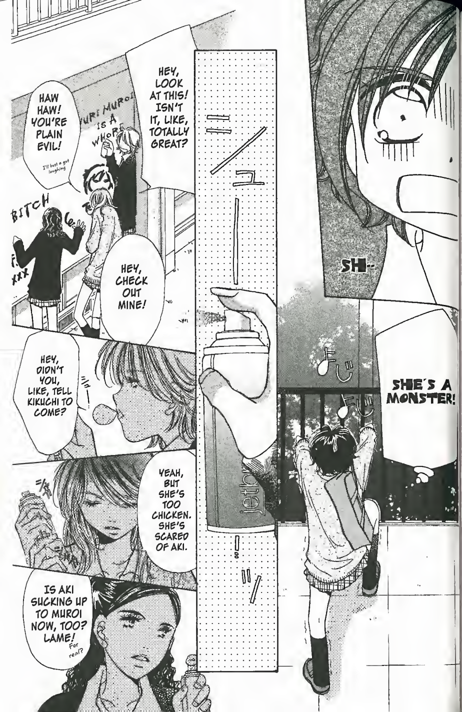

NOT EVER AGAI--
HUH?
GRAAAAAAH!!!
THIS IS WHAT I THINK OF YOUR STUPID PICTURE!!!
GYAAAAAAA!!!A
WHAT THE HELL DID YOU DO THAT FOR?!
H...
HANADA-SENPAI!
SHADDAP!

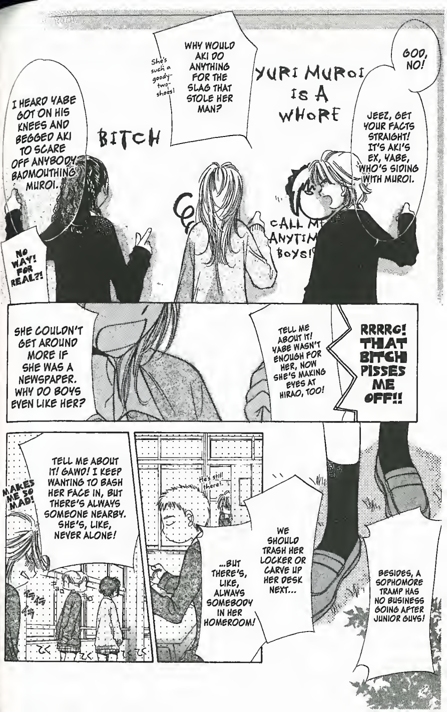

HOW... HOW COULD YOU?
OPEN YOUR EYES, YOU NIT-WIT!
LISTEN TO ME!
Senpai's all torn up
AS LONG AS YOU INSIST ON RELYING ON THAT CRUTCH, YOU'LL NEVER WALK TALL. NEVER!!
YOU REFUSE TO LEARN! ISN'T THAT PLENTY?
WHAT DID I DO TO DESERVE--
I WANT YOU TO LOOK AT HIRAO-KUN! REALLY LOOK AT HIM!
UNDERSTAND HIM...
BE HERE TOMORROW BEFORE 6 A.M. OR ELSE!

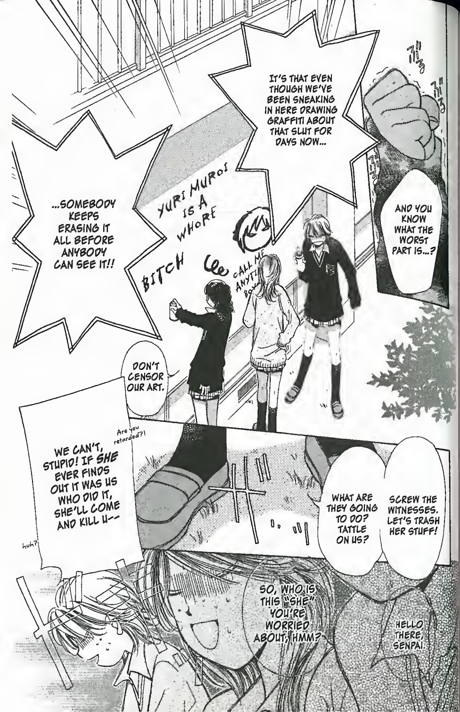

I-I DON'T WANNA... I WON'T COME...
WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?!
I... I'M NOT COMING...
DAMN, THE QUIET ONES SURE CAN BE SCARY WHEN THEY GET MAD.
AND TEARING UP THAT PICTURE MADE YURI ALL BULLHEADED.
I NEED TO STEP IN...
RELAX, HANADA-SENPAI...
I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT.
I'LL MAKE SURE YURI'S HERE TOMORROW MORNING.
I HATE YOU, KAGURAZAKA-SAN!!

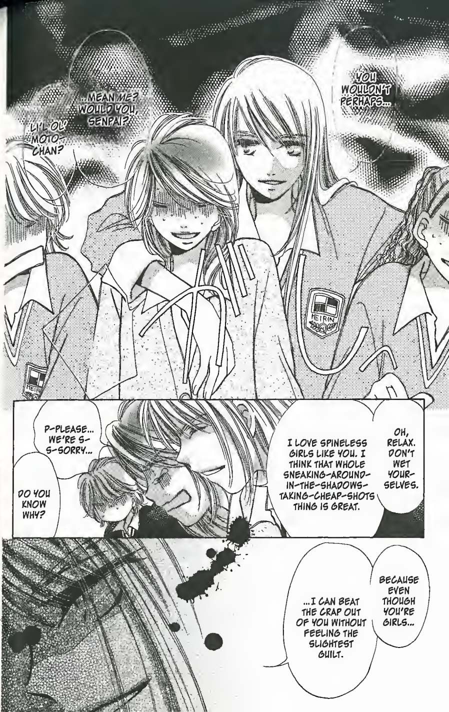

NO, I DON'T WANNA GO!! I DON'T WANNA, I DON'T WANNA, I DON'T WANNA!!!
NOOOOO!!!
COME ON. YOU LOOOOVE SCHOOL, DONCHA?
NOOO!!!
YOU REALLY ARE A BRAT.
I was sleeping!
THE STREETS ARE EMPTY THIS EARLY.
BUT THIS SHOULD BE WORTH IT.
I'LL NEVER DO WHAT SHE WANTS! SHE RIPPED UP MY YABE-SENPAI!
And with it, my heart!
WOULD YOU SHUT UP ALREADY?!
Taped it back together
--N'T YA THINK... SLUT... MUROI...
...DONE BEFORE... COME...

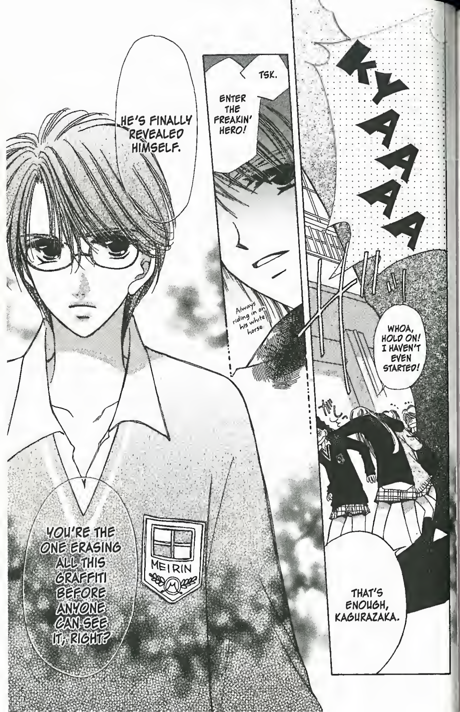

WHA--? WHO'S ALREADY HERE?
Talking about me, too!
PERFECT! WE CAN GO OVER THE WALL RIGHT HERE!
...HUH?
?!
SEE YOU ON THE OTHER SIDE!

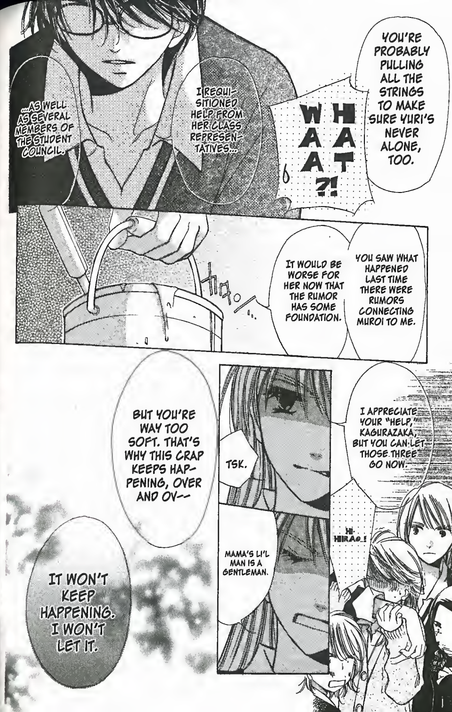

SH--
SHE'S A MONSTER!
HEY, LOOK AT THIS! ISN'T IT, LIKE, TOTALLY GREAT?
HAW HAW! YOU'RE PLAIN EVIL!
I'll bust a gut laughing
YURI MUROI IS A WHORE
BITCH
HEY, CHECK OUT MINE!
HEY, DIDN'T YOU, LIKE, TELL KIKUCHI TO COME?
YEAH, BUT SHE'S TOO CHICKEN. SHE'S SCARED OF AKI.
IS AKI SUCKING UP TO MUROI NOW, TOO? LAME!
For real?

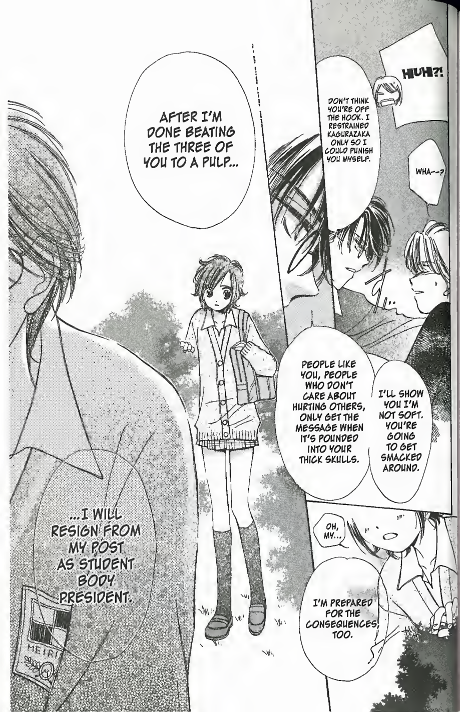

GOD, NO!
JEEZ, GET YOUR FACTS STRAIGHT! IT'S AKI'S EX, YABE, WHO'S SIDING WITH MUROI.
YURI MUROI IS A WHORE
WHY WOULD AKI DO ANYTHING FOR THE SLAG THAT STOLE HER MAN?
She's such a goody-two-shoes!
I HEARD YABE GOT ON HIS KNEES AND BEGGED AKI TO SCARE OFF ANYBODY BADMOUTHING MUROI.
BITCH
CALL ME ANYTIME BOYS!
NO WAY! FOR REAL?!
RRRRG! THAT BITCH PISSES ME OFF!!
TELL ME ABOUT IT! YABE WASN'T ENOUGH FOR HER, NOW SHE'S MAKING EYES AT HIRAO, TOO!
SHE COULDN'T GET AROUND MORE IF SHE WAS A NEWSPAPER. WHY DO BOYS EVEN LIKE HER?
BESIDES, A SOPHOMORE TRAMP HAS NO BUSINESS GOING AFTER JUNIOR GUYS!
WE SHOULD TRASH HER LOCKER OR CARVE UP HER DESK NEXT...
...BUT THERE'S, LIKE, ALWAYS SOMEBODY IN HER HOMEROOM!
He's still there!
TELL ME ABOUT IT! GAWD! I KEEP WANTING TO BASH HER FACE IN, BUT THERE'S ALWAYS SOMEONE NEARBY. SHE'S, LIKE, NEVER ALONE!
MAKES ME SO MAD!

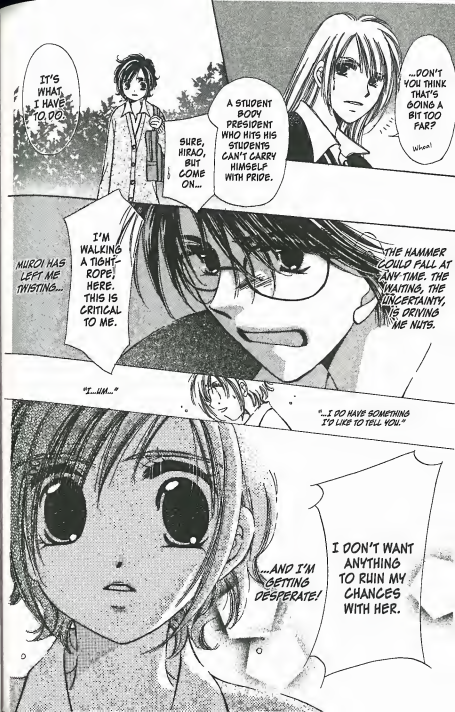

AND YOU KNOW WHAT THE WORST PART IS...?
IT'S THAT EVEN THOUGH WE'VE BEEN SNEAKING IN HERE DRAWING GRAFFITI ABOUT THAT SLUT FOR DAYS NOW...
...SOMEBODY KEEPS ERASING IT ALL BEFORE ANYBODY CAN SEE IT!!
YURI MUROI IS A WHORE
BITCH
CALL ME ANYTIME BOYS
DON'T CENSOR OUR ART.
SCREW THE WITNESSES. LET'S TRASH HER STUFF!
WHAT ARE THEY GOING TO DO? TATTLE ON US?
WE CAN'T, STUPID! IF SHE EVER FINDS OUT IT WAS US WHO DID IT, SHE'LL COME AND KILL U--
Are you retarded?!
huh?
HELLO THERE, SENPAI.
SO, WHO IS THIS "SHE" YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT, HMM?

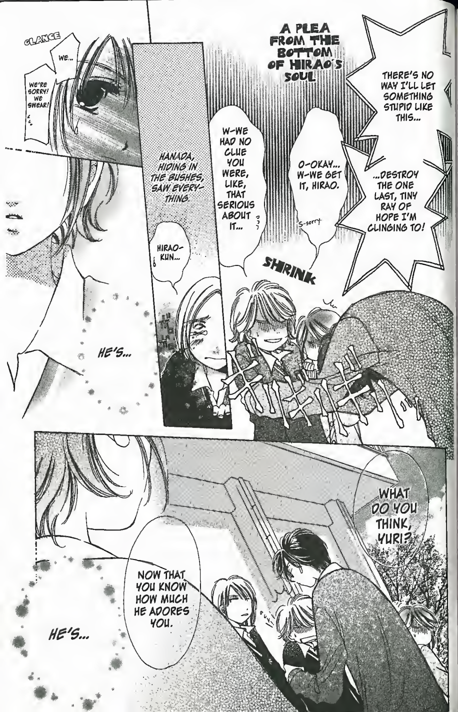

YOU WOULDN'T PERHAPS...
...MEAN ME? WOULD YOU, SENPAI?
LI'L OL' MOTO-CHAN?
OH, RELAX. DON'T WET YOURSELVES.
I LOVE SPINELESS GIRLS LIKE YOU. I THINK THAT WHOLE SNEAKING-AROUND-IN-THE-SHADOWS-TAKING-CHEAP-SHOTS THING IS GREAT.
P-PLEASE... WE'RE S-S-SORRY...
DO YOU KNOW WHY?
BECAUSE EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE GIRLS...
...I CAN BEAT THE CRAP OUT OF YOU WITHOUT FEELING THE SLIGHTEST GUILT.

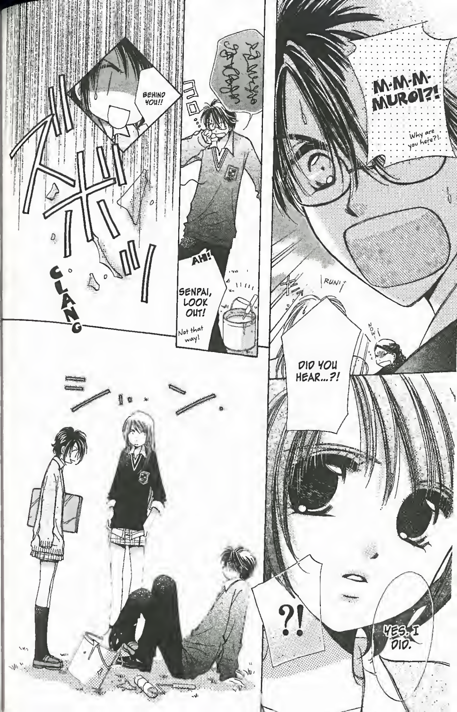

KYAAAA
WHOA, HOLD ON! I HAVEN'T EVEN STARTED!
THAT'S ENOUGH, KAGURAZAKA.
TSK.
ENTER THE FREAKIN' HERO!
Always riding in on his white horse
HE'S FINALLY REVEALED HIMSELF.
YOU'RE THE ONE ERASING ALL THIS GRAFFITI BEFORE ANYONE CAN SEE IT, RIGHT?

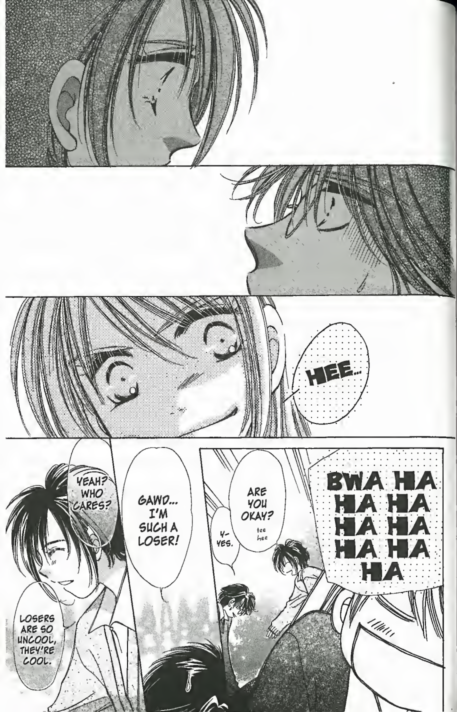

YOU'RE PROBABLY PULLING ALL THE STRINGS TO MAKE SURE YURI'S NEVER ALONE, TOO.
WHAAT?!
I REQUISITIONED HELP FROM HER CLASS REPRESENTATIVES...
...AS WELL AS SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE STUDENT COUNCIL.
YOU SAW WHAT HAPPENED LAST TIME THERE WERE RUMORS CONNECTING MUROI TO ME.
IT WOULD BE WORSE FOR HER NOW THAT THE RUMOR HAS SOME FOUNDATION.
I APPRECIATE YOUR "HELP," KAGURAZAKA, BUT YOU CAN LET THOSE THREE GO NOW.
HI-HIRAO..!
TSK.
MAMA'S LI'L MAN IS A GENTLEMAN.
BUT YOU'RE WAY TOO SOFT. THAT'S WHY THIS CRAP KEEPS HAPPENING, OVER AND OV--
IT WON'T KEEP HAPPENING. I WON'T LET IT.

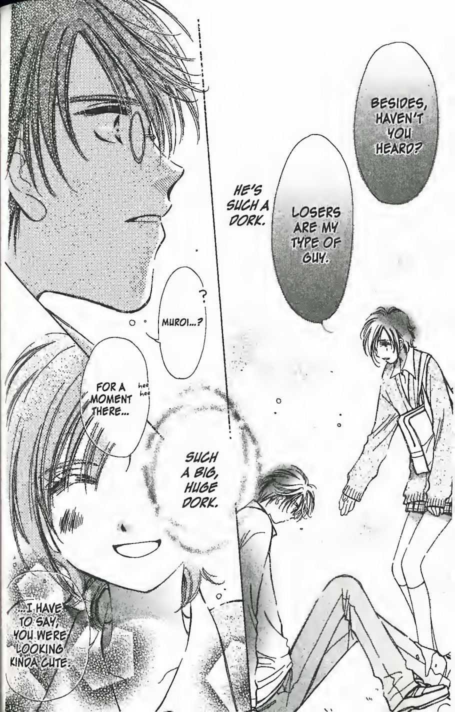

HUH?!
DON'T THINK YOU'RE OFF THE HOOK. I RESTRAINED KAGURAZAKA ONLY SO I COULD PUNISH YOU MYSELF.
WHA--?
I'LL SHOW YOU I'M NOT SOFT. YOU'RE GOING TO GET SMACKED AROUND.
PEOPLE LIKE YOU, PEOPLE WHO DON'T CARE ABOUT HURTING OTHERS, ONLY GET THE MESSAGE WHEN IT'S POUNDED INTO YOUR THICK SKULLS.
OH, MY...
I'M PREPARED FOR THE CONSEQUENCES, TOO.
AFTER I'M DONE BEATING THE THREE OF YOU TO A PULP...
...I WILL RESIGN FROM MY POST AS STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT.
MEIRI

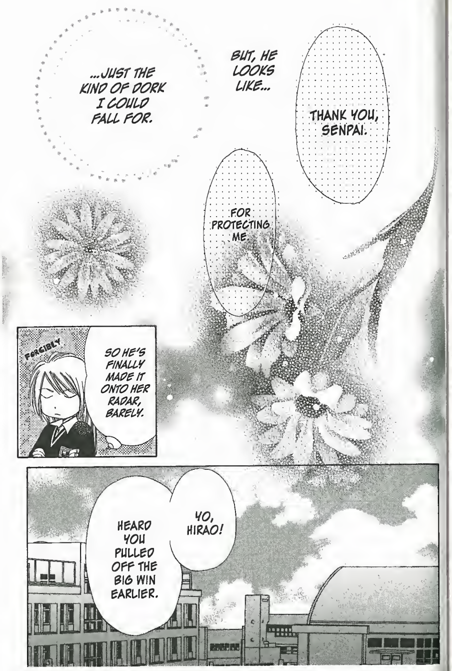

...DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S GOING A BIT TOO FAR?
Whoa!
A STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT WHO HITS HIS STUDENTS CAN'T CARRY HIMSELF WITH PRIDE.
SURE, HIRAO, BUT COME ON...
IT'S WHAT I HAVE TO DO.
THE HAMMER COULD FALL AT ANY-TIME. THE WAITING, THE UNCERTAINTY, IS DRIVING ME NUTS.
I'M WALKING A TIGHTROPE, HERE. THIS IS CRITICAL TO ME.
MUROI HAS LEFT ME TWISTING...
"...I DO HAVE SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO TELL YOU."
"I...UM..."
I DON'T WANT ANYTHING TO RUIN MY CHANCES WITH HER.
...AND I'M GETTING DESPERATE!


THERE'S NO WAY I'LL LET SOMETHING STUPID LIKE THIS...
...DESTROY THE ONE LAST, TINY RAY OF HOPE I'M CLINGING TO!
A PLEA FROM THE BOTTOM OF HIRAO'S SOUL
O-OKAY... W-WE GET IT, HIRAO.
S-sorry
SHRINK
W-WE HAD NO CLUE YOU WERE, LIKE, THAT SERIOUS ABOUT IT...
HANADA, HIDING IN THE BUSHES, SAW EVERY-THING.
HIRAO-KUN...
GLANCE
WE...
WE'RE SORRY! WE SWEAR!
HE'S...
WHAT DO YOU THINK, YURI?
NOW THAT YOU KNOW HOW MUCH HE ADORES YOU.
HE'S...

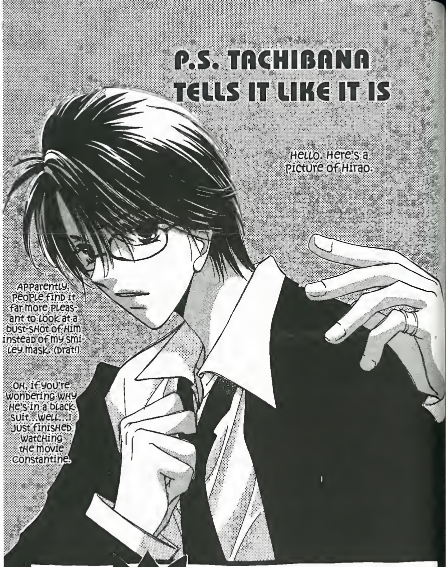

M-M-M-MUROI?!
Why are you here?!
RUN!
NOW!
AH!
SENPAI, LOOK OUT!
Not that way!
BEHIND YOU!!
CLANG
DID YOU HEAR...?!
?!
YES. I DID.


HEE...
BWA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
ARE YOU OKAY?
tee hee
Y-YES.
GAWD... I'M SUCH A LOSER!
YEAH? WHO CARES?
LOSERS ARE SO UNCOOL, THEY'RE COOL.


BESIDES, HAVEN'T YOU HEARD?
LOSERS ARE MY TYPE OF GUY.
HE'S SUCH A DORK.
MUROI...?
FOR A MOMENT THERE...
hee hee
...I HAVE TO SAY, YOU WERE LOOKING KINDA CUTE.
SUCH A BIG, HUGE DORK.


THANK YOU, SENPAI.
FOR PROTECTING ME.
BUT, HE LOOKS LIKE...
...JUST THE KIND OF DORK I COULD FALL FOR.
FORCIBLY
SO HE'S FINALLY MADE IT ONTO HER RADAR, BARELY.
YO, HIRAO!
HEARD YOU PULLED OFF THE BIG WIN EARLIER.

P.S. TACHIBANA TELLS IT LIKE IT IS



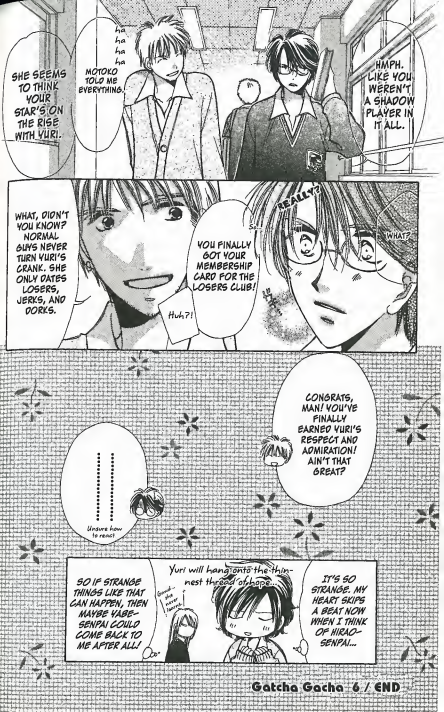
Hello. Here's a picture of Hirao.

Apparently, people find it far more pleasant to look at a bust-shot of him instead of my smiley mask. (Drat!)

Oh, if you're wondering why he's in a black suit...well...I just finished watching the movie Constantine.

The smiley mask is back.

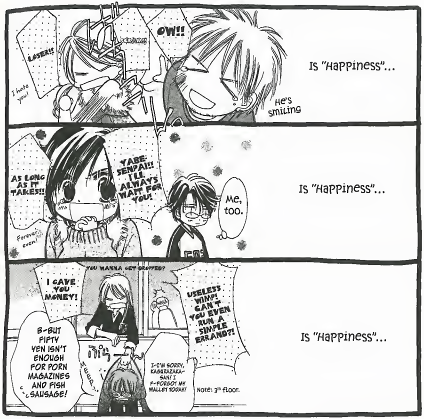
So, what is "Happiness"?


HMPH. LIKE YOU WEREN'T A SHADOW PLAYER IN IT ALL.
ha ha ha ha
MOTOKO TOLD ME EVERYTHING.
SHE SEEMS TO THINK YOUR STAR'S ON THE RISE WITH YURI.
WHAT?
REALLY?
So...
YOU FINALLY GOT YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARD FOR THE LOSERS CLUB!
Huh?!
WHAT, DIDN'T YOU KNOW? NORMAL GUYS NEVER TURN YURI'S CRANK. SHE ONLY DATES LOSERS, JERKS, AND DORKS.
CONGRATS, MAN! YOU'VE FINALLY EARNED YURI'S RESPECT AND ADMIRATION! AIN'T THAT GREAT?
……
Unsure how to react
IT'S SO STRANGE. MY HEART SKIPS A BEAT NOW WHEN I THINK OF HIRAO-SENPAI...
Yuri will hang onto the thinnest thread of hope...
Gawd... she never learns.
SO IF STRANGE THINGS LIKE THAT CAN HAPPEN, THEN MAYBE YABE-SENPAI COULD COME BACK TO ME AFTER ALL!

Gatcha Gacha 6 / END

Stay tuned for Volume 7, coming soon!

As Motoko and Yuri head to school, they bump into an odd girl named Sae, an acquaintance of Motoko's from back in junior high. What relationship did these two have in the past and does it explain Motoko's current personality? Also, when a young man from England shows up claiming to be Motoko's brother, how will everyone handle the new revelation?


OW!!
SCRAM!!
LOSER!!
I hate you!
He's smiling
Is "Happiness"...
YABE-SENPAI!! I'LL ALWAYS WAIT FOR YOU!
AS LONG AS IT TAKES!!
Forever, even!
Me, too.
Is "Happiness"...
USELESS WIMP! CAN'T YOU EVEN RUN A SIMPLE ERRAND?!
YOU WANNA GET DROPPED?
I GAVE YOU MONEY!
B-BUT FIFTY YEN ISN'T ENOUGH FOR PORN MAGAZINES AND FISH SAUSAGE!
ぶら—
MEEP...
I-I'M SORRY, KAGURAZAKA-SAN! I F-FORGOT MY WALLET TODAY!
Note: 3rd floor.
Is "Happiness"...

What is "Happiness," anyway?

LITTLE LOST LAMB, SEARCHING FOR HER HAPPINESS...

baaa
TOK TOK TOK TOK

Her search is going to be delayed for a short while. After I finished drawing up the last chapter in this volume, I took almost six full months off from Gatcha Gacha. A lot of my other work had piled up to dangerous levels, so I didn't have much of a choice. Apologies.

P.S Tachibana Tells It Like It Is / END

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With the reappearance of Kanako—who is alive and well—Yuri's relationship with Yabe comes to an abrupt end. And all that stress over her problems with Yabe has caused Yuri to develop an ever-growing bald spot on the back of her head! With Hirao always there to help her, will Yuri finally fall for him? Or does she still only have eyes for Yabe?

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